ACROSS / A14

Cops detonate bomb found in Pagadian City bus

BUSINESS / B1

GMA to hold command conference monthly with BIR, Customs

METRO / A17

Sandigan clears ex-QC city engineer in Ozone Disco fire

WORLD / A19

CIA 9/11 probe blames ex-director, other top execs for leadership failures

NEWS / A2

Abu Sayyaf eyed in Zambo bombing

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, August 23, 2007 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 256 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

A son of Mindanao is new Army chief

By Aquiles Z. Zonio
Inquirer Mindanao

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—LT. GEN. Alexander Yano, described as a tiger with the heart of a diplomat and a passion for peace, will become the commanding general of the 80,000-strong Philippine Army, it was announced yesterday.

A SON/ A8

Marine commander in Basilan sacked

By Christine O. Avendaño
and Juliet Labog-Javellana
in Manila
and Julie S. Alipala *in Zamboanga*

GEN. HERMOGENES ESPERON JR., Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff, yesterday sacked the Marine brigade commander in Basilan, saying he wanted an officer to be with his troops in the raging battle against Moro rebels.

Faced with mounting casualties on the battlefront, President Macapagal-Arroyo was to fly today to Zamboanga City for a command conference.

"The President would like to assess the situation right there on the ground," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said at a news conference in Malacañang.

Esperon said the relief of Col. Ramiro Alivio, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1979, was a decision of the Board of Generals, which he heads.

"We have to have a brigade commander that will be with the troops ... during operations," Esperon told reporters. He said Alivio had been directing operations from his headquarters in Isabela, Basilan, as his men suffered severe casualties on the battlefront.

MARINE/ A8

OUTGOING: 1st Marine Brigade Commander, Col. Ramiro Alivio, packs up and leaves office at the brigade headquarters in Tabiawan, Basilan, on Wednesday.

EDWIN BACASMAS

'I have a peace to win'

GMA hits 'titans of hate, politics of destruction'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TRYING TO SHAKE off a scandal that has hounded her for two years, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday slammed the "titans of hate" over their plan to reinvestigate the "Hello Garci" issue, and declared she would have no part in the "politics of destruction."

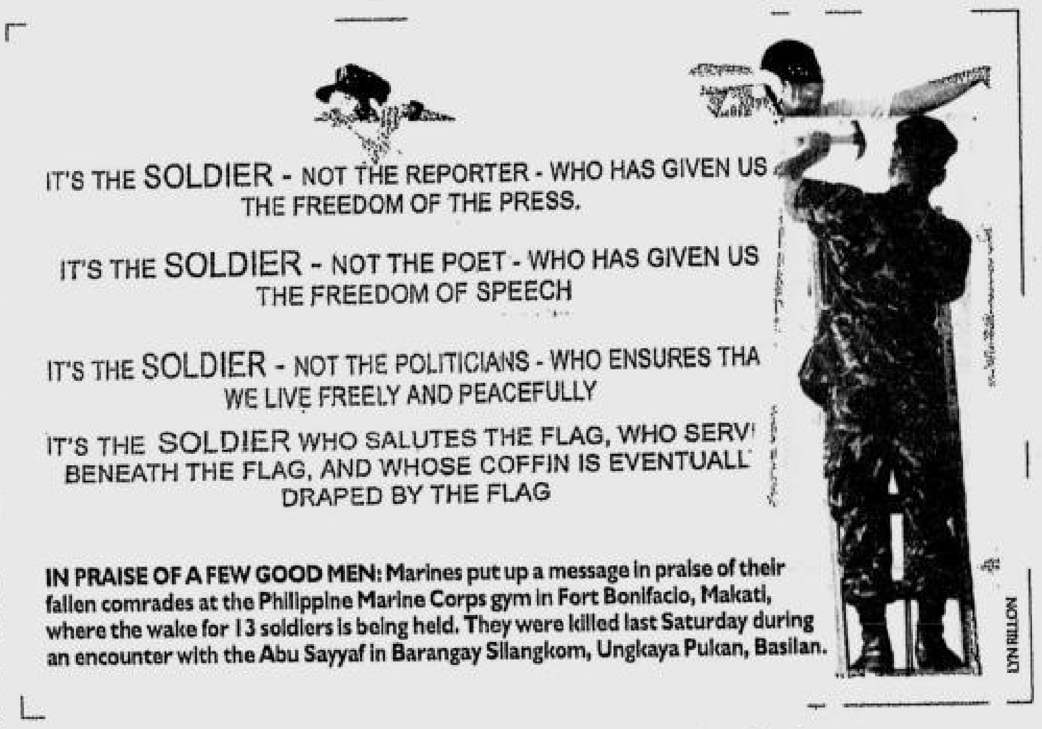
At the same time, Malacañang said it would invoke Ms Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464 if the Senate should summon Cabinet and military officials to appear in a new probe into allegations she cheated in the 2004 presidential elections. *(See related story on Page A6).*

"I have a country to run. I have terrorists to fight. I have a peace to win. And a bright future to secure for these children," Ms Arroyo said after hearing the concerns of residents during a visit to Barangay

'I HAVE/ A6

A PENSIVE President Arroyo at the wake.

LYN RILLON



IT'S THE SOLDIER - NOT THE REPORTER - WHO HAS GIVEN US THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.
IT'S THE SOLDIER - NOT THE POET - WHO HAS GIVEN US THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH
IT'S THE SOLDIER - NOT THE POLITICIANS - WHO ENSURES THA
WE LIVE FREELY AND PEACEFULLY
IT'S THE SOLDIER WHO SALUTES THE FLAG, WHO SERV
BENEATH THE FLAG, AND WHOSE COFFIN IS EVENTUALL
DRAPED BY THE FLAG

IN PRAISE OF A FEW GOOD MEN: Marines put up a message in praise of their fallen comrades at the Philippine Marine Corps gym in Fort Bonifacio, Makati, where the wake for 13 soldiers is being held. They were killed last Saturday during an encounter with the Abu Sayyaf in Barangay Silangkom, Ungkaya Pukan, Basilan.

LYN RILLON

Palace to invoke EO 464 again

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDuardo Ermita yesterday said Malacañang would invoke Executive Order No. 464 when the Senate invites Cabinet and military officers to its investigation into the "Hello Garci" scandal.

Ermita also said Ms Arroyo and the Armed Forces had more pressing problems to attend to, particularly the Mindanao conflict, which has claimed dozens of military lives in recent weeks.

Ermita said Executive Order 464 was not entirely voided by the Supreme Court and that its valid provisions would govern

PALACE/ A6

'Isafp has mole in Smart but its execs may not know'

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER T/SGT. VIDAL DOBLE YESterday jumped the gun on the Senate's plan to reopen the "Hello Garci" wiretap inquiry.

Doble named Smart Communications Inc. as the telephone company allegedly used by military intelligence in 2004 to listen in on the conversations of targets like ex-Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

"I don't think the top executive of Smart knows about the operation," he said.

Was Garcillano using a Smart number? "Yes," Doble said.

Were all the numbers given to them to listen to all of Smart subscribers?

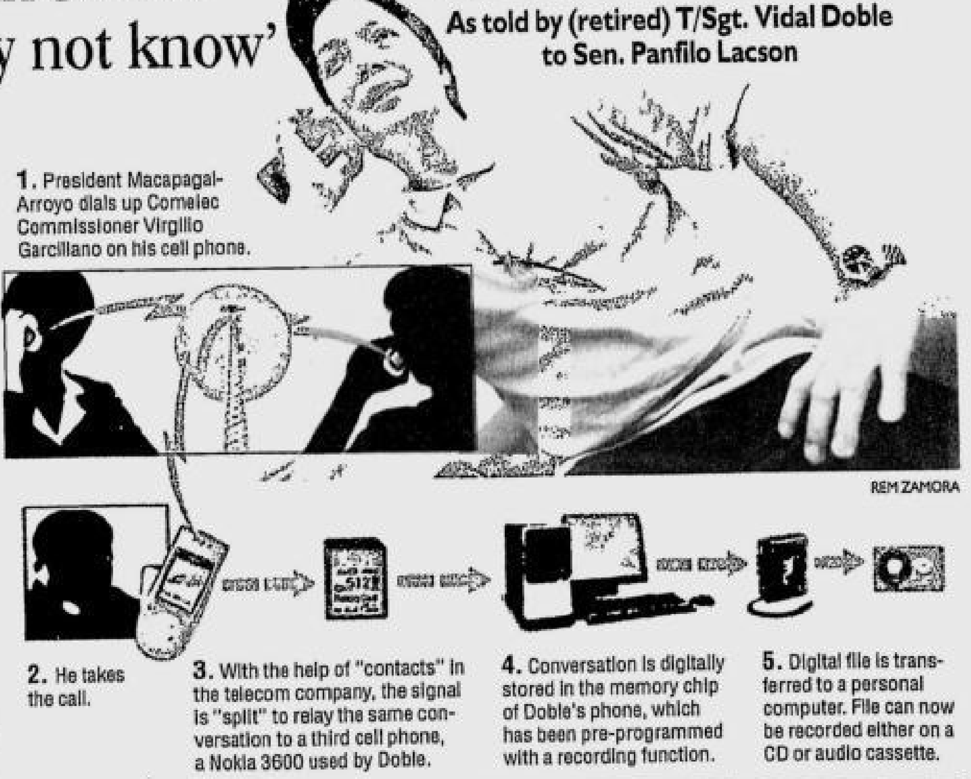
"Yes," he added.

Doble, an agent of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) who provided the opposition in 2005 with the "master files" of the controversial tracks, said

ISAFP/ A4

HOW 'GARCI' GOT TAPPED

As told by (retired) T/Sgt. Vidal Doble to Sen. Panfilo Lacson



1. President Macapagal-Arroyo dials up Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on his cell phone.

REM ZAMORA

2. He takes the call.

3. With the help of "contacts" in the telecom company, the signal is "split" to relay the same conversation to a third cell phone, a Nokia 3600 used by Doble.

4. Conversation is digitally stored in the memory chip of Doble's phone, which has been pre-programmed with a recording function.

5. Digital file is transferred to a personal computer. File can now be recorded either on a CD or audio cassette.

INQUIRERGRAPHIC : ERNIE SAMBO

Smart: We don't have capability to bug phones

By Riza T. Olchondra
and Gil C. Gabacungan Jr.

SMART COMMUNICATIONS Inc. yesterday insisted it lacked the technology to eavesdrop on phone calls, rebutting a former Army sergeant who claimed to have recorded the "Hello Garci" tapes with the connivance of tech-savvy "contacts" within the company.

Smart, the cellular service provider of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., doesn't have the "highly restricted equipment" needed to conduct even a court-sanctioned wiretapping operation, according to Smart corporate communications chief Ramon Isberto.

Isberto issued a denial shortly after retired T/Sgt. Vidal Doble, who used to be with the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), told reporters that Isafp had "somebody from Smart" to help spy on both administration

SMART/ A4

'Hello Garci' mess started with a dare over drinks

By Norman Bordadora

WHERE'S SAMMY ONG, THE FORMER NBI deputy director who first exposed the "mother of all tapes" that almost ousted President Macapagal-Arroyo two years ago? And how did he get the tapes?

It all started with an innocent dare between two bar-hopping buddies.

Former T/Sgt. Vidal Doble, an agent of the

'HELLO/ A6

NAGPASIKATAN LANG SA INUMAN!

Gonzalez uses Aragoncillo case vs GMA foes

By Leila B. Salaverria

IT'S NOW TIT-FOR-TAT BEtween the Department of Justice and the Senate.

After the Senate revived the "Hello Garci" wiretapping controversy by hearing the testimony of a former military intelligence agent, the DOJ is now rushing to transcribe recorded phone conversations between ex-spy Leandro Aragoncillo and former police official Michael Ray Aquino and their unindicted coconspirators in their espionage case.

"We can have a tit-for-tat with the Senate. They don't want to let sleeping dogs lie," Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday. "It's time that there should be cases to be filed against people here who are unindicted coconspirators in America."

Asked if Sen. Panfilo Lacson

GONZALEZ/ A8

EZ2
16 19

FOUR DIGIT
9 2 9 6

SUERTRES
Mid-Day 6 9 8
Evening 7 6 9
(All in exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45
7 10 15 18 33 34
P5,201,708.40

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/08/22/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Tan lawyer hits delay in trial

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE CAMP OF TOBACCO TYcoon Lucio Tan yesterday expressed disappointment after it failed to grill Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos who had to cut short his testimony on claims that his family owned a big chunk of the taipan's firms to attend a minority caucus at Congress.

"We were ready this afternoon to cross-examine him. Unfortunately, the proceedings of a case which has been pending for more than 20 years have to be [deferred] because of a minority caucus [which] in our view is an unreasonable justification," said Tan's lawyer, Estelito Mendoza.

On Tuesday, Marcos testified at the Sandiganbayan Fifth Division that 60 percent of Tan's corporate holdings belonged to his late father Ferdinand Marcos.

Marcos Jr. was scheduled to continue his testimony yesterday and was then to be cross-examined by Mendoza but his counsel informed the court that the congressman had to be excused as he was attending a meeting of the minority bloc in Congress at 2 p.m yesterday.

The court adjourned the hearing at 3 p.m.

In his brief testimony yesterday, Marcos was asked whether he was familiar with the signature and handwriting of his late father as it appeared on at least seven documents previously submitted by Presidential Commission on Good Government to the Sandiganbayan.

Some of these documents bore the letterhead of Asia Brewery Inc., Allied Bank Corp. and Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration.

After he was shown copies of the documents, Marcos said the handwriting on the marginal notes affixed on the documents appeared to be his father's.

PCGG lawyer Catalino Generillo Jr. told reporters that the Marcos testimony as to the genuineness of the marginal notes that appeared in the letters would help prove that Tan and Marcos were close business partners.

But Mendoza said he was unperturbed by the testimony. He maintained that the Marcos family should have brought the case before the Regional Trial Court and not before the Sandiganbayan which is a special tribunal handling graft and ill-gotten wealth cases.

The next hearings on the case were scheduled for Oct. 15, 16, 18, Nov. 20, 22 and 29.

Mendoza, however, objected to the trial's deferment, saying the defendants could not be made to wait indefinitely.

"This case has been dragging on for over 20 years since it was filed in 1987. Further delays in the trial would be most unfair to my clients," Mendoza told the court.

The PCGG has sought the trial's deferment until Marcos has obtained original copies of documents proving his claim on Tan's companies.

Marcos had presented to the court copies of deeds of assignments supposedly showing how the assets of the late dictator and Tan were placed in Shareholdings Inc., a holding company for all the firms now controlled by Tan.

The documents would be delivered to him by his US-based counsel by mid-October, he said.

But Mendoza said the documents would not help the young Marcos in his claim. "I don't give much significance to those documents. You will not find the name of Marcos in any of those documents," he said.

Relying on Marcoses

He also assailed the government for depending on the Marcoses to retrieve these original documents from US authorities when it knew since 1990 that these papers were under the custody of the US Customs Services.

"From the looks of it, government is relying heavily on the Marcoses to prove its case. It has even delegated the task of gathering original documents to Marcos' American lawyers. The 1990 letter of the US Customs was addressed to the PCGG. The right party to request these original documents should be the Republic of the Philippines, not the Marcoses," he stressed.

A MARINE soldier stands guard under a tree in a temporary camp in Al-Barka, Basilan.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Abu Sayyaf eyed in Zambo bombing

By Alcuin Papa

THE ABU SAYYAF EXTREMist group are the suspects in the bombing in a Zamboanga City plaza late Tuesday that injured 14 people, police officials said.

Director General Oscar Calderon, the Philippine National Police chief, said the bombing could have been intended to divert government resources from the military operations in Sulu and Basilan, where troops are hunting Abu Sayyaf suspects.

The PNP expected this and have been preparing for it, Calderon told reporters in Camp Crame yesterday.

Diversionary

He said that since the military was focused on military operations on the islands of Jolo and Basilan, the Abu Sayyaf have launched bombing attacks "to reduce pressure on them in other areas."

Calderon said the PNP and the Armed Forces are coordinating the deployment of their forces.

"We will take care of the areas vacated by the AFP," he said.

The PNP chief added that they have asked for help in identifying the Zamboanga bombing suspects from the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) which is negotiating a peace agreement with the government. But peace talks which were supposed to resume in Malaysia last Tuesday have been postponed indefinitely.

"They can help us find this group," Calderon said of the MILF.

The military has stepped up offensives in the Abu Sayyaf strongholds of Jolo and Basilan in recent weeks after some 14 Marines were killed on July 10 and 26 soldiers slain in early August by the Abu Sayyaf and their allies.

Sixteen troops were killed with some 30 Abu Sayyaf dead or wounded in a military attack on an Abu Sayyaf camp in Basilan last Saturday.

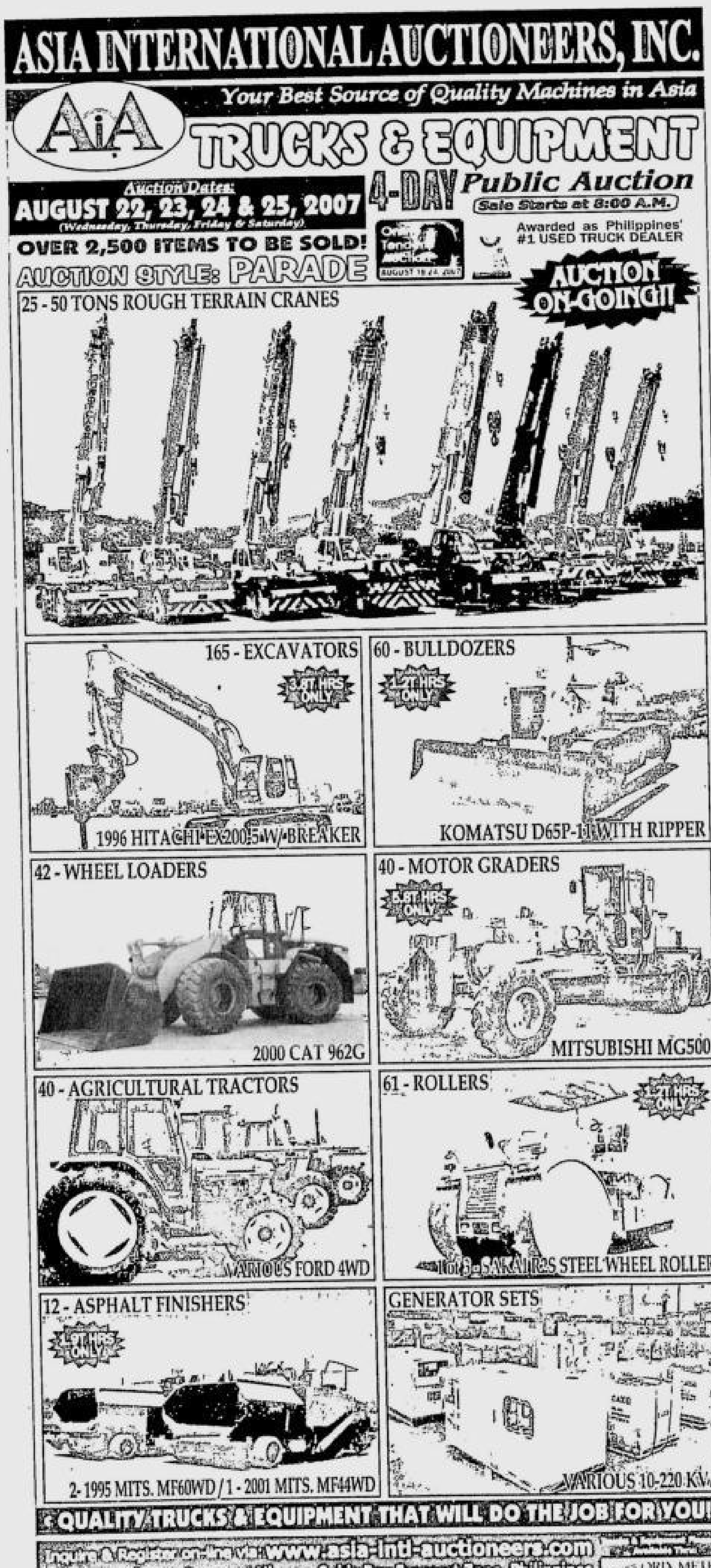
Spillover

Calderon has asked local government officials around the country to help police in maintaining peace and order amid fears that the conflict in Sulu and Basilan could spill over to other areas.

"If there is a need for peace talks with certain sectors of the community to be initiated by our local government officials, that is good and we will join them. This is a chance for the police and community to join and maintain the peace," he said.

He warned the public to remain vigilant and counter any moves by the terrorists to disrupt the peace.

On Tuesday, the PNP went on full alert in Metro Manila and Mindanao.



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Noynoy vows to stop bid of Marcoses

SEN. BENIGNO "NOYNOY" AQUINO III yesterday vowed to block fresh attempts by the Marcos heirs to get back their family's assets allegedly entrusted to cronies of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

In an interview with reporters, Aquino asked: "If this is legitimate wealth, why is it in the name of other individuals? They have claimed for long that all their wealth is legitimate but why did they not declare it in their income tax returns?"

Aquino said it was part of his duty to continue his father's legacy of battling the Marcos dictatorship that led to his assassination in Aug. 21, 1983.

Aquino recalled that the Marcoses have consistently denied that they were engaged in a lot of business. "I recall an old joke where Imelda claims that they only have one industry—mining. That is mine, this is mine. It seems that is what is happening now," said Aquino.

Aquino questioned the motive behind Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s decision to appear before the Sandiganbayan to lay claim on companies allegedly entrusted by his father to taipan Lucio Tan.

Marcos was asked by the Sandiganbayan to present more concrete evidence aside from photocopies of titles and deeds of their alleged assets.

But Sen. Joker Arroyo said he has not bothered to think about the Marcos move to reclaim their assets because "I don't think anything can happen with that."

"I can't see how our judicial process will allow that. If they get the assets, the government will get it from them. In the end, it will all end up with government. The mystery is why Marcoses are willing witnesses for the government and I can't even hazard any guess," said Arroyo.

2 more earthquakes keep Phivolcs busy

By TJ Burgonio

TWO MORE EARTHquakes—One felt in Romblon and Marinduque, and another in Central Mindanao—rocked the country yesterday, bringing to about 16 the number of quakes felt in different areas over the past few days, most of them in Central Mindanao.

The quakes were tectonic in nature, and were not connected, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said yesterday, allaying fears that a major fault crack or volcanic eruption was building up.

"These originated from local active faults. They are tectonic, not volcanic earthquakes. And they are not related at all. So there's no reason to worry," Phivolcs planning officer Delfin Garcia said in an interview.

An average of 20 earthquakes occur every day, but most of these are not felt.

Phivolcs, however, was concerned with the series of earthquakes that have been occurring in Kidapawan City. Since Friday, some 64 events have been recorded, only 12 of them felt.

"We continue to monitor the area. We're not sure if these events would lead to something big," Garcia said.

Monday, Aug. 27, another holiday

THE COUNTRY WILL OBSERVE NATIONAL Heroes' Day on Monday, Aug. 27, instead of August 31, as mandated by a new law institutionalizing President Macapagal-Arroyo's "holiday economics."

The law (Republic Act No. 9492) signed last July 25 authorizes shifting holiday observances to reduce disruption to business and production schedules, encourage domestic tourism and give employees long weekends.

Most holidays, except those with religious significance, will be shifted to the nearest Monday.

For example, Ninoy Aquino Day, a special holiday which marks the assassination of the anti-Marcos opposition leader, is celebrated every Aug. 21. But since this year it fell on a Tuesday, the government shifted its observance to Monday, Aug. 20.

Pinoy priest indicted in US federal court for fraud

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA—A RETIRED Roman Catholic priest charged with embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from two rural churches was indicted on federal fraud charges, federal prosecutors said.

The Rev. Rodney L. Rodis, 51, who was born in the Philippines, was indicted Tuesday on charges of mail fraud, wire fraud and money laundering, the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia announced in a news release.

According to the indictment, Rodis embezzled money from Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Bumpass and St. Jude Church in Mineral from 2002 until last year. Rodis wired at least $515,231 of misappropriated parishioner contributions to the Philippines, the release said.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Richmond has said Rodis embezzled more than $600,000 from the churches, where he was parish priest from 1993 until his retirement last May.

Rodis is being held at Central Virginia Regional Jail in Orange County on 13 state felony embezzlement charges stemming from the incident. In May, Rodis' bond was revoked after he violated terms of his bond.

"If the federal authorities had indicted Father Rodney for the same offenses for which he was standing trial in the state court, then arguably double jeopardy principles would prevent him from being tried in both courts for the same offense," said Rodis' lawyer, John R. Maus.

Maus would not comment further on the charges because he had not yet seen the indictment.

Lousia County Commonwealth's Attorney Don Short said he is not surprised by the charges, but believes it probably will cause the state charges to be dropped in order to allow federal authorities to proceed.

Rodis used a post office box to obtain checks from parishioners, which he would transfer to a personal bank account and wire to the Philippines, according to court documents.

The release said that Rodis used the money and property intended for church use for his spouse and three biological children, "whom he concealed" by living about 50 miles (80 kilometers) from the church.

The case against Rodis originated in November when officials with the Catholic Diocese of Richmond found a Pennsylvania donor's check was deposited in a bank account they knew nothing about. *AP*

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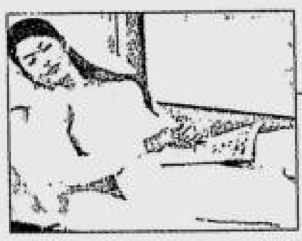

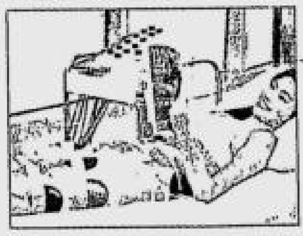

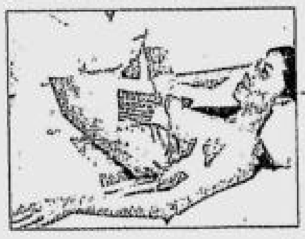

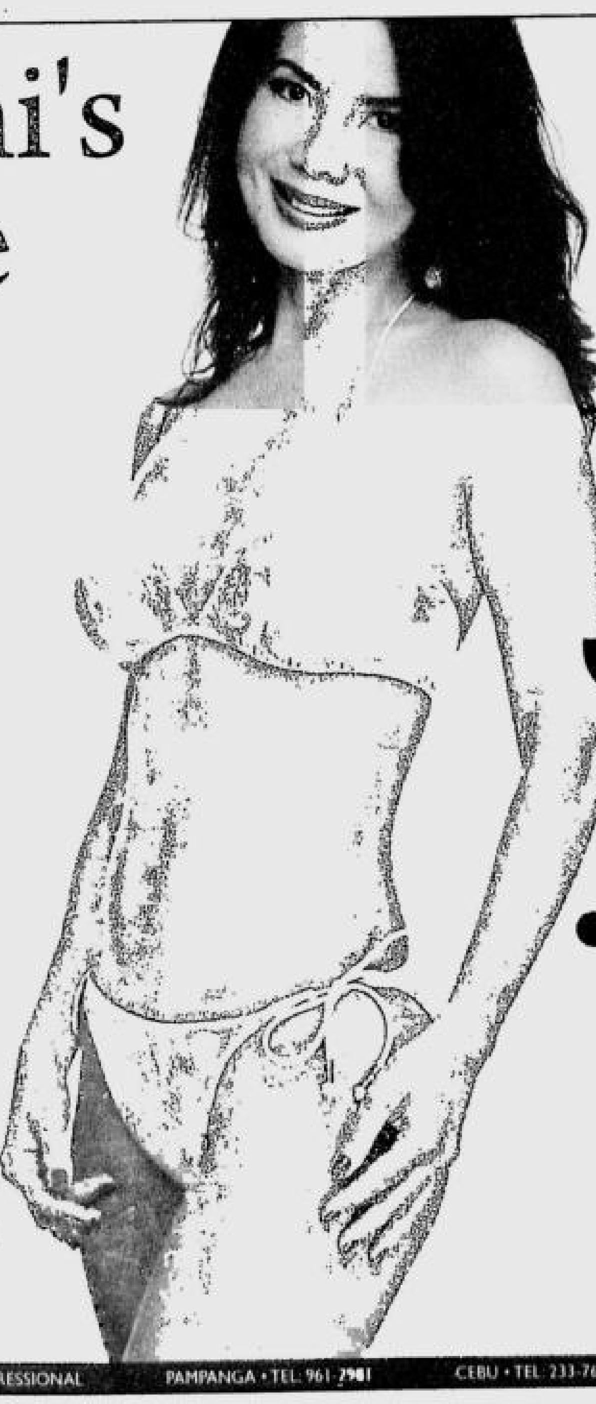

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marie france

WHAT WENT BEFORE

Doble said Ong paid him P2M for tapes

By Cyril L. Bonabente
Inquirer Research

ONG: Where's he now?

GARCILLANO: Back to square 1

HEAD-TURNER: Doble's live-in partner, Marietta Santos, was an engaging resource person during Senate hearings.

FLASHBACK: In July, 2005, Doble was at the Court of Appeals with legal wife Arlene (in white). Marietta Santos, Doble's girlfriend had petitioned the court for the writ of habeas corpus alleging that the Isafp was curtailing Doble's freedoms.

PDI PHOTO FILE

ON JUNE 10, 2005, FOUR days after Malacañang released what it said was a doctored version of what became known as the "Hello Garci" tapes, former National Bureau of Investigation Deputy Director Samuel Ong announced he had the "mother of all tapes."

The tapes were supposed to be recordings of phone conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on how to rig the results of the 2004 presidential election.

Ong said he got the recordings from friends in the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp).

Ong then sought sanctuary at the San Carlos Seminary in Makati City, along with T/Sgt. Vidal Doble and Doble's girl friend, Marietta Santos.

On June 13, a distraught Arlene Doble appeared in public and said her husband, Doble, was being held against his will at the seminary. She said she learned about the alleged illegal detention through text messages from her husband.

P2M for the tapes

The same day, Bishop Socrates Villegas took Doble out of the compound and turned him over to the military.

In a television interview, Doble denied that the supposed authentic tapes in Ong's possession came from him.

He later issued an affidavit saying that, months earlier, Ong met him at a Quezon City hotel and told him to appear in a video for a "scripted authentication (of the tapes)."

Doble said he refused, but later agreed to do it after Ong threatened him and his family.

Doble said Ong paid him P2 million for the effort, claiming the money came from Laarni Enriquez, mistress of ousted President Joseph Estrada. Enriquez denied this.

Ong denied forcing Doble to appear in the video and detaining him, saying they voluntarily went to the seminary for protection.

The justice department slapped Ong with illegal detention charges, which were later dismissed.

On July 12, 2005, Doble's girl friend, Santos, said on radio that Doble had sold the tapes to Ong. She said the reason Doble had claimed that Ong held him against his will was because his (Doble's) family had been taken into custody by the Isafp.

In December 2005, Santos testified at the Senate that she used to be able to saunter in and out of the Isafp compound. She said that before the "Hello Garci" scandal broke out, Doble played the master tape of the wiretapped conversations to her.

Refuting military claim

Santos said she saw a mobile phone interceptor in the Isafp compound, contradicting the military's claim that it was not capable of conducting wiretaps.

In a special report in September 2005, the INQUIRER quoted sources as confirming that members of Isafp's Military Intelligence Group 21 conducted wiretapping activities before, during and after the 2004 elections.

The aim of the wiretapping operation was to snoop on opposition plans and monitor Garcillano's activities, according to INQUIRER informants.

Comelec junks call to reinvestigate 'Hello Garci' scandal

By Nikko Dizon

POLL COMMISSIONER RENE Sarmiento said yesterday his colleagues in the Commission on Elections had rejected his proposal for a reinvestigation of the "Hello Garci" scandal.

Sarmiento said he presented his proposal last month but "the Comelec en banc told me, it's time to move on."

He said his fellow commissioners gave him three reasons why they thought another investigation was not feasible.

The reasons were:

- An investigation has already been conducted by the Comelec's law department and all the personnel linked to the scandal have submitted affidavits denying participation in alleged poll rigging in Mindanao to ensure President Macapagal-Arroyo's victory in 2004.
- The Comelec has tried, but failed, to secure from Congress the original tape of the supposed wiretapped conversation between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.
- An investigation has been conducted by both the Senate and the House of Representatives and yet the findings were "inconclusive."

Sarmiento said he no longer asserted his position because it would have been "inappropriate" as the Comelec was a collegial body.

"I am only one voice in the Comelec ... It was a decision of the commission so I did not insist," Sarmiento said.

Speaking on Church-run Radio Veritas, Novaliches Bishop Emeritus Teodoro Bacani expresssed hope that with the resurfacing of T/Sgt. Vidal Doble, the Senate investigation into the scandal would be pursued and the truth finally revealed.

Asked if he still had with him the alleged "mother of all tapes" which former National Bureau of Investigation official Samuel Ong had given him for safekeeping, Bacani said he had already returned it to Ong.

"If I kept it with me, I might be next to be raided so I returned it to him," Bacani said in Filipino.

'Isafp has mole in Smart but its execs may not know'

From page A1

his mother unit had a contact inside the communications firm.

He claimed the Isafp mole made the splitting of conversation signals possible from Smart's network structure—one signal going to the subject subscriber and the person he or she was talking with, and the other signal going to Isafp's Nokia 3600 listening device.

"Definitely, there was somebody from Smart who was involved in the operation," Doble told reporters in a Makati venue.

Smart denied it had conducted any such activity. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

The "Hello Garci" tapes are alleged recordings of phone conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Garcillano which the opposition claims proved they connived to tamper with the results of the 2004 presidential election.

Despite Ms Arroyo's and Garcillano's denials, the issue has refused to die and continues to hover like an ominous cloud over the Arroyo presidency.

Spotting weaknesses

Doble said his superiors in the Isafp's Military Intelligence Group 21 at that time—Col. Paul Sumayo and Capt. Frederick Windell Rebong—gave MIG 21 members a set of mobile numbers to "monitor," using a wiretap system involving a cell phone, its memory chip and a computer.

According to Doble, the Isafp only targets members of the telco staff with technical knowhow and with access to the "mainframe."

"We have what we call spotting. We look for who we can recruit, we look for his weakness and then we use that weakness to make him work for us," Doble said.

Doble said it was Rebong who coordinated with the Isafp contact in the mobile communication service provider. The captain has since gone on military schooling abroad.

"We only target technical people. They do not have to be from the top (management) positions," the former sergeant said.

Top AFP officers know

Doble said it wasn't so in the intelligence service. The top officers must have known about MIG 21's wiretapping operations.

"The only ones who talked to us were Colonel Sumayo and Captain Rebong," he said. "But definitely, the other generals must know what we were doing, from (Vice Adm.) Tirso Danga, the J-2 [operations chief], down to (then) Isafp chief Marlou Quevedo and the then chief of intelligence operations Col. Allen Capuya."

Doble added that the officers would know who authorized the wiretap operation, called "Project Lighthouse," and why.

"We were not told why we would do the operation. We were just given a set of numbers and were told to look after the conversations," he said.

When GMA called

Doble said he was not the one who wiretapped Garcillano.

"I was just ordered to stand guard and listen in," he said.

He said his job entailed listening in, transcribing the conversations, and recording them in a logbook.

Doble said MIG 21 agents were divided into four groups to do round-the-clock monitoring of the cell phones whose numbers they were given.

He said that when he and the members of his team heard Ms Arroyo call Garcillano and talk about the counting of votes, they alerted their superiors.

"Mother of all tapes"

"Captain Rebong asked that a duplicate copy be made. He said they would already be the ones to handle it," Doble said.

Doble said the original recordings—the "mother of all tapes"—should still be with the Isafp.

"That is, if it has not yet been destroyed," he said.

The original recordings, Doble said, were on cassette and contained the unedited recordings of Ms Arroyo's and Garcillano's conversations.

"We were monitoring Garci's phone. We only got to hear the President when she called up Garcillano," Doble said.

Ping has original copy

Doble said Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who presented to the Senate the other day Doble's video testimony about the tapes, has a copy of the original recordings.

Doble said what he gave former National Bureau of Investigation Deputy Director Samuel Ong—who had claimed to be holding "the mother of all tapes"—were "the master files."

He said the master files were recordings of selected conversations tagged with identifying headers.

Doble said the Isafp could make new master files if the unedited, original recordings still existed.

'We were appalled'

He said all the conversations between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano that he knew about were already in the master files he gave Ong.

"All of us (soldiers in MIG 21) were appalled when we heard the President talk with Garcillano," Doble said.

"We asked ourselves, how come this was happening?"

Doble said that when a soldier was caught cheating in a written test during schooling, he was discharged from the military.

"How come the Commander in Chief was caught involved in cheating?" Doble said.

He asked for forgiveness from Bishop Teodoro Bacani who received him and Ong at the San Carlos Seminary in June 2005 when they sought refuge when they were about to announce that they had the "mother of all the tapes."

Family held hostage

Doble said he had to turn back because he learned that the Arroyo administration had his family hostage.

"How could I have pulled the trigger when they were hiding behind my family?" Doble said.

He said that on June 12, 2005, Bataan Bishop Socrates Villegas arrived at the seminary in a helicopter.

"He asked me how I was. He asked me if I wanted to see my family. I said, 'yes,'" Doble said.

Doble said Villegas accompanied him to the quarters of then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu.

The basement

"It was in the basement where I saw my family—my wife and two children," Doble said.

"I was at a loss. I told my wife they should have stayed in Kidapawan," he added.

Doble expressed doubt that Villegas was in on the conspiracy to force him to back out from his plan to present himself as the source of the wiretapped recordings.

"I think he was just requested to help by taking me to my family," Doble said.

When he was taken into military custody, Doble said he was debriefed.

"I was dictated upon what to say," Doble said.

He said he was told to declare that he was threatened by Ong to come out with the tape.

Threat

"The truth was the threat came from (the administration and the military leadership)," Doble said.

He said it was difficult for him to face the congressional inquiry.

"I lied when I said there was a threat from Attorney Ong," Doble said.

"It was difficult to lie. You saw how I was at the stand," he added referring to how he dodged questions from congressmen to keep himself from saying the Garci tapes were authentic.

Doble said the situation was different now.

He's still not quite confident about the security of his family but he's no longer a part of the military.

'Tape is for real'

"I feel that I'm already free," Doble said.

As for his family, he said he didn't know their status. "I've yet to be in touch with them in a long time."

Lacson on Tuesday said that Doble's family was secure in an undisclosed location.

Smart: We don't have technology, restricted equipment to bug

From page A1

and opposition personalities in the 2004 elections. *(See related story on Page A1).*

In a clandestine press conference in Makati City, Doble said Isafp recruited "technical people" from Smart who had access to the network's mainframe. He doubted, however, whether the company's top executives knew of the operation.

Doble faced reporters a day after Sen. Panfilo Lacson, in a privilege speech, presented a video recording of Doble admitting that he and fellow Isafp operatives tapped the phone conversations of President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Lacson then said it would only take the cooperation of a service provider to help Isafp with phone surveillance. He did not identify the service provider.

"This issue first came out two to three years ago, when the Garci scandal broke out. We have said then and we are saying again now (that) the company has not participated in any efforts to eavesdrop or monitor conversations," Isberto said in a phone interview.

"Even if so ordered (by the court), we simply do not have the technical capability to do it. Eavesdropping on a conversation is no simple matter, even if it seems so when we read about it," he said.

"Special equipment is needed for it and we do not have that. Not just anybody can get that because it is highly restricted equipment (and) presumably very expensive. Whoever did the eavesdropping had access to such equipment, but not us," Isberto added.

The import or export of such equipment is strictly regulated worldwide, he said.

Isberto said the company had not been invited to any Senate inquiry on the "Hello Garci" tapes.

Internal probe?

He deferred comment when asked whether Smart had initiated an internal investigation on the alleged Isafp "recruits" in the company.

Isberto said that to be able to split a phone signal from Smart's main control room, the supposed Isafp asset would have to use a decoder to sort out specific phone calls crisscrossing the system, which handles more than 24 million subscribers.

He dismissed as "highly speculative" Doble's claims that Isafp had managed to recruit Smart insiders.

"We have very tight controls on our operations, any breach of our security would have triggered an alarm."

Isberto also said he was not familiar with the method described by Lacson as to how the Isafp had purportedly "split," rerouted to Doble's phone (a Nokia 3600), and digitally recorded the signal capturing the conversation between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano.

"I don't know if splitting the signal is even possible," he said.

No comment

"We couldn't do it even if we wanted to," Isberto said in a separate interview. "Up to now, I cannot understand how we were supposed to have played a role in the wiretapping."

The National Telecommunications Commission also declined to comment on the matter, saying the service providers are the ones who have the network expertise to say whether wiretapping is possible.

TALE OF TWO MOTHERS

Edita Burgos wants GMA, AFP officials cited for contempt

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE MOTHER OF MISSING ACTIVIST Jonas Burgos yesterday asked the Court of Appeals to cite President Macapagal-Arroyo and five military officials for contempt for failing to properly respond to the writ of habeas corpus issued by the Supreme Court and denying they have her son in their custody.

Edita Burgos said the President failed to verify the return of the writ or the failure of the military to produce the person sought by the court. Under the rules, if a prisoner is not produced, the chief executive should sign the return of the writ and swear to it.

Liable

As for the military officials, Burgos said they were liable for contempt for making a false return of the writ or for stating they do not have Jonas. She charged that the military had custody of her son—at least on the day of his alleged abduction (April 28, 2007) at the Ever Gotesco mall in Quezon City.

The Armed Forces officials she wants held in contempt are Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Lt. Gen. Romeo Toletino, Maj. Gen. Juanito Gomez, Lt. Col. Melquiades Feliciano, and Lt. Col. Noel Clement.

Since the license plate number (TAB 194) was admitted to be in the custody of the 56th Infantry Battalion, "it is reasonably presumed that the vehicle seen with the same plate is also a vehicle in the custody of the 56th Infantry Battalion," she argued.

She also said the head of the 56th IB did not present any proof that the concerned plate number was lost, as officials had claimed.

Self-serving

"At best, the claim of loss is self-serving and should not overcome the presumption that the vehicle seen with plate number TAB 194 into which Jonas was forced and the persons who took him and boarded the same vehicle are connected with the 56th IB," she added.

Burgos added that a motive was also supplied by Esperon when his office issued a report tagging Jonas as a member of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army.

Vital info

"The refusal of Gen. Esperon to allow the submission of the Provost Marshal Report to this Honorable Court further proves that they are in possession of information vital to the family's determination of the whereabouts of Jonas. The declarations of innocence (or ignorance) before the Honorable Court as to the custody of Jonas directly impede, obstruct and degrade the administration of justice," she said.

The Supreme Court issued a writ of habeas corpus last month and directed the military to produce Jonas before the Court of Appeals, which is hearing the petition on the case.

Campbells awed by beauty that lured Julia to her death

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LAGAWE, IFUGAO—THIS PROVINCE may be the site of the gruesome killing of US Peace Corps Julia Campbell, but this did not stop her mother and sister from admiring its natural beauty.

Speaking with reporters after the court trial on Wednesday, Linda Campbell and Geary Morris said they still consider Ifugao, including Banaue town, as a beautiful place.

"We hope to be back in the future to see these wonderful places in Ifugao," said Linda, 65.

The elder Campbell concluded her testimony as the prosecution's first witness on Wednesday morning, describing in open court how Julia was as a daughter, as a volunteer worker and as a sister to her siblings, and recounted the family's grief over her loss.

Julia was killed at around dusk on April 8 while she was on a solo trek to Batad village in Banaue, about 30 km from here, which is site of the world-famous Batad rice terraces.

Patches of beauty

During their two-day visit to Ifugao for the trial, mother and daughter finally saw part of what Julia came to see before she met her death allegedly at the hands of Batad native Juan Donald Duntugan, the primary suspect in the killing.

Duntugan admitted to having killed Julia, but maintained that it was done in blind rage after he mistook her for a village bully and his long-time enemy.

From their room at the View Inn Hotel at Banaue town proper, Linda and Geary said they caught a glimpse of patches of Banaue's famed terraces.

LINDA Campbell

In her court testimony, Linda said she and Julia had planned to come to Banaue during the mother's visit to the Philippines in August last year.

The plan, however, did not push through. Julia came alone to Ifugao during the Lenten break.

Pursuit of justice

In an interview with reporters, Campbell thanked persons who have helped them, especially their Filipino lawyers who, they said, have been doing their best in the family's pursuit of justice for Julia.

They maintained that murder was committed in Julia's death.

Prosecution lawyers presented their second witness, Melvin Chorhangon, the 14-year-old boy from Batad whose statement led police investigators to tag woodcarver Duntugan as a suspect in the killing.

According to Chorhangon, he saw Duntugan emerge from the bushy side of a cliff—where the body was found—as the boy was walking along the mountain trail leading to Batad on the morning of April 9.

During the cross-examination by defense lawyer Pedro Mayam-o, Chorhangon admitted, however, that he did not personally see the killing, and that he learned of the killing only through television newscasts.

Tranquility

In Baguio City, Ifugao Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. said the Campbell case alone had not disrupted his province's tranquility. He made the statement in a report to the Cordillera Regional Peace and Order Council during its session in Baguio on Wednesday.

He said Ifugao dealt with only 22 crimes between January and July this year, compared to the 51 cases recorded by police in 2006.

Despite Campbell's murder, the province saw a 60-percent drop in its crime statistics, he said, although solutions to these crimes were far slower with 86 percent compared to last year's 89 percent crime solution rate.

Baguilat said Campbell tested the effectivity of Ifugao's tourism-oriented police force, which received a commendation from US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney at the close of the murder investigations.

He said vices like prostitution and illegal gambling remain the more formidable problems in his province, compared to murder. *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

STRADCOM
AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMPANY

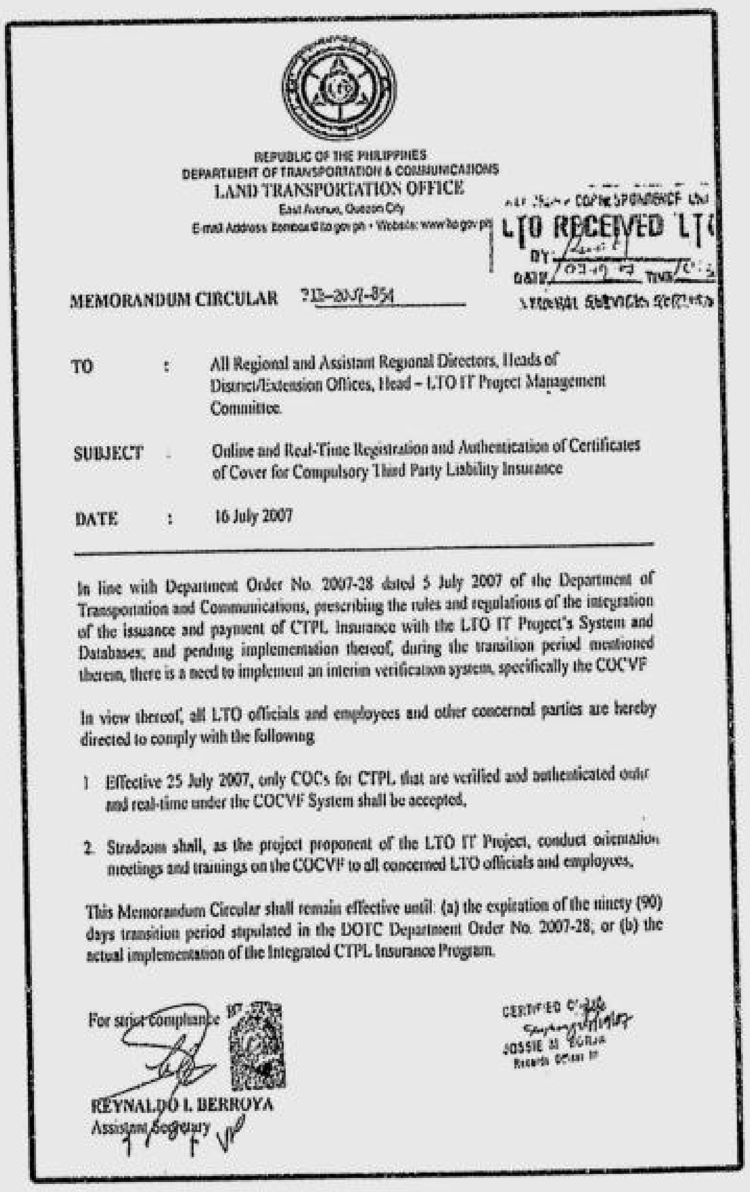
A PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
By STRADCOM CORPORATION

NOTICE TO ALL
COMPULSORY THIRD PARTY LIABILITY (CTPL)
INSURANCE PROVIDERS

In compliance with LTO Memorandum Circular Number RIB-2007-854, dated July 16, 2007, all CTPL Insurance Providers are required to interconnect with the Certificate of Coverage Verification Facility (COCVF) of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) Information Technology (IT) Project's System to ensure that your transactions will continue to be accepted and processed at all LTO sites nationwide.

Effective August 27, 2007, please be advised that only CTPL-COC policies from accredited Insurance Providers which are duly connected to the COCVF will be accepted for motor vehicle registrations.

***Insurance Providers may contact Ms. RHODA B. IPAC at 0918-9221655 or Ms. JENNIFER BALLADA-BUNCALAN at 0920-9041604 for your contractual, documentary and other requirements.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR RIB-2007-854

TO : All Regional and Assistant Regional Directors, Heads of District/Extension Offices, Head – LTO IT Project Management Committee.

SUBJECT : Online and Real-Time Registration and Authentication of Certificates of Cover for Compulsory Third Party Liability Insurance

DATE : 16 July 2007

In line with Department Order No. 2007-28 dated 5 July 2007 of the Department of Transportation and Communications, prescribing the rules and regulations of the integration of the issuance and payment of CTPL Insurance with the LTO IT Project's System and Databases; and pending implementation thereof, during the transition period mentioned therein, there is a need to implement an interim verification system, specifically the COCVF

In view thereof, all LTO officials and employees and other concerned parties are hereby directed to comply with the following

1. Effective 25 July 2007, only COCs for CTPL that are verified and authenticated online and real-time under the COCVF System shall be accepted,
2. Stradcom shall, as the project proponent of the LTO IT Project, conduct orientation meetings and trainings on the COCVF to all concerned LTO officials and employees.

This Memorandum Circular shall remain effective until: (a) the expiration of the ninety (90) days transition period stipulated in the DOTC Department Order No. 2007-28; or (b) the actual implementation of the Integrated CTPL Insurance Program.

For strict compliance.

REYNALDO I. BERROYA
Assistant Secretary

CERTIFIED COPY
JOSSIE M. BORJA
Records Officer III

Opposition not rushing to file new impeach case

By Christian V. Esguerra, Kristine L. Alave

MEMBERS OF THE MINORITY bloc in the House of Representatives yesterday adopted a "wait-and-see" attitude on whether to revive an impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The impeachment issue arose in the wake of an admission by former Army T/Sgt Vidal Doble that it was a group of intelligence agents, including him, who wiretapped phone conversations between Ms Arroyo and former poll commissioner Virgilio Garcillano dealing with alleged cheating during the 2004 presidential election.

Cibac Rep. Joel Villanueva, a leading voice in the two failed impeachment cases against Ms Arroyo, said a third complaint was not in the minority bloc's "priority list" at this time.

"The impeachment option is not totally dead," he told the INQUIRER. "But it is in the backseat."

Senior Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez said the opposition would first watch the upcoming proceedings in the Senate before committing on any plan of action.

"As a matter of inter-chamber courtesy, I don't comment on Senate initiatives. I will just closely monitor the proceedings in the Senate," Golez said in a text message.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim said the opposition welcomed Doble's revelations in a video testimony presented at the Senate the other day by Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Rodriguez said opposition members in the House would evaluate the prospects for filing an impeachment case only after they got the results of the Senate investigation.

Until then, Rodriguez said, it was "premature" to act based only on Doble's statements.

Not on agenda

"There's no agenda for the opposition to file an impeachment case. We don't have affidavits, we have no first hand information. Right now, there is nothing to study. Nobody's talking of an impeachment in the House," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez and Lim said it was best to wait for the Senate to finish its investigation.

An administration lawmaker cautioned the opposition against filing yet another impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

"It would be impractical for the minority to reuse the issue for the third time for another impeachment move ... now that the nation is focused on the fight against the Abu Sayyaf and licking the dry spell problem," Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan said in a statement.

Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier said that Doble had been bought to squeal on the matter.

Dead horse

"How much is Doble this time around? And why start the presidential polls too early? We cannot see any logical reason why Senator Lacson desperately needs to resurrect a dead issue except for his presidential ambition," Javier said.

Speaking before members of the opposition Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino in Greenhills, San Juan City, Lim and Rodriguez called for an immediate investigation into Doble's allegations.

Lim, a former senator, said those who opposed the Senate inquiry may have something to hide.

Lim said he wondered why "some people are afraid of investigations," noting that a probe would be "two-pronged" as it would pinpoint the guilty and clear the innocent.

Commend Doble

Lim and Rodriguez lauded Doble for his bravery in breaking his silence.

"Presumably, if you tell the truth nowadays, you will be endangering yourself," Lim said.

When the so-called "Hello, Garci" tapes came out in 2005, the opposition members of the House, along with private individuals and groups, filed impeachment cases against Ms Arroyo. The President's allies voted down the impeachment bid.

'I have a peace to win, terrorists to fight, a country to run'

From page A1

Sta. Teresita in Quezon City.

"I embrace work and leave just to the titans of hate to have a monopoly on the politics of destruction," she said.

Ms Arroyo's remarks were apparently a retort to Sen. Panfilo Lacson's call for a reinvestigation of the "Hello Garci" tapes containing supposed wiretapped conversations between her and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano on rigging the results of the 2004 presidential elections.

The Senate agreed to investigate the scandal as a committee of the whole after former Army T/Sgt. Vidal Doble testified in a video the other day that the tapes were authentic. Doble said he was a member of the intelligence unit that carried out the wiretap.

Doble lying

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. sought to cast doubt on Doble's testimony.

Esperon said Doble was lying when he said that his family was detained in the basement of the quarters of former Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu to pressure him not to talk about what he knew.

"I am now occupying the quarters of General Abu, the quarters of the chief of staff, and I must tell you that there is no basement in that quarters," Esperon told reporters.

Doble said in his testimony that he had kept quiet about what he knew for fear of the safety of his family, whom he said was detained by the military.

Asked what he thought of Lacson's bid to reopen the "Hello Garci" controversy, Esperon said this was a "decision of the Senate which we do not wish to influence."

Arroyo's Senate allies

Ms Arroyo's allies in the Senate yesterday consolidated their forces to block the reopening of the "Hello Garci" probe by warning their peers of the legal implication of playing an illegally obtained private communication even in the confines of the Senate.

Four of the eight administration senators—Richard Gordon, Juan Ponce Enrile, Joker Arroyo and Miriam Defensor-Santiago—spoke on the Senate floor and in media interviews about the possible violation of Republic Act No. 4200 if the Senate allowed Doble to testify on how he intercepted the phone conversations between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano in mid-2004.

The gambit appeared to have paid off as debates on the issue forced the Senate to defer action on convening the committee of the whole until the senators had discussed the legal implications of Doble's testimony with the Senate committee on rules on Tuesday.

Gordon cited the provisions of the Antiwiretapping law that prohibit individuals from knowingly possessing or replaying public information on private communication obtained through illegal means.

A TIME TO MOURN: President Arroyo makes time in her busy schedule to honor the Marines and condole with their families at the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City. Behind her is Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro.

LYN RILLON

Possible law violation

"By allowing ourselves to hear this, we will now be putting the Senate in an embarrassing situation of violating the law the Senate itself created. This should have been tossed to the court. Taken illegally we will become party to such a crime," Gordon said.

He noted that one of the penalties in playing an illegally obtained tape of conversation was "perpetual absolute disqualification from public office."

Santiago said that the Senate had to be careful because there was no precedent yet on whether a person's right to privacy of communication would take precedence over a legislator's legal immunity if the wiretapped subject was exposed in a privilege speech.

"The Supreme Court has not yet made a decision based specifically on the clash of these two provisions," she said.

Arroyo said: "We cannot at this late stage of our profession be accused of being ignorant of the law not only as legislators but also as lawyers."

Santiago also questioned the motive of Lacson and dismissed Doble as a "damaged witness" and a "witness for sale."

"This is an unreliable witness for the simple reason that he seems to have changed his mind," Santiago said.

Stonewall tactics

"Once a witness recants, the court is justified in disregarding the testimony completely or accepting it with a degree of skepticism. His credibility becomes low if he keeps shifting from position to position. This will be a witness for sale," she said.

Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. questioned the supposed stonewalling tactics of the administration, claiming that the public already knew who were the voices in the tapes.

In Cagayan de Oro City, Garcillano's lawyer Edgardo Tamondong dismissed Doble's testimony.

"Doble is showing us garbage, claiming the same things which Garcillano had already testified to in the Congress and Senate hearings," Tamondong said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, DJ Yap and Grace Cantal-Albasin, Inquirer Mindanao*

'Hello Garci' scandal started with a dare over drinks

From page A1

Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), and National Bureau of Investigation operative Lito Santiago used to work together in the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (Paoctf).

Exchanging stories

Sen. Panfilo Lacson headed Paoctf during the administration of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Little did Doble know at that time that Santiago's boss was Ong, who subsequently claimed he had the "mother of all tapes" before he and Doble disappeared amid the controversy, saying their lives were in danger.

"In September 2004, we met in Camp Aguinaldo," Doble said, referring to Santiago.

"We exchanged stories about our days with the Paoctf," he said in an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday.

"We often went out bar-hopping. At one point, I told him about the fraud we uncovered," Doble said.

"He told me, 'No, that's not true.' So I was challenged and I let him listen to the tapes," Doble said.

He said it was early in 2005 when he told Santiago about the taped conversations between Ms Arroyo and the Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano allegedly detailing election fraud and when he made Santiago listen to the master files.

On Tuesday, Lacson announced in a privilege speech in the Senate that Doble had broken a two-year silence after he quit the Isafp and admitted in a video-taped testimony that he did the wire tap.

'I can't accept that'

"Personally, I can't accept that the President of the Philippines would call a commissioner of the Comelec just so she can cheat in the elections," Doble told the INQUIRER.

"During (a soldier's schooling), when you are caught cheating, copying the answers of a seat mate, you'd be discharged from the service," he said.

On March 12, 2005, Doble said he gave a copy of the master files to Santiago. A couple of months later on May 6, he first met Ong in a Quezon City bar.

Ong at that time was a bad shot with the NBI leadership.

The NBI was then led by a known Arroyo ally and former police general, Reynaldo Wycoco. Ong was an influential deputy director in the NBI during the Estrada administration.

'Devastating and destructive'

"I knew about the devastating and destructive effects of the recordings," Doble said.

"If I wanted to make money from the tapes, I would have asked for P40 million for it," he added.

Doble said he didn't want to receive the P2 million that Ong gave him when they met in May of 2005. *(See story on Page A4.)*

"He said it (money) came from Laarni," Doble said, referring to the former movie actress Enriquez who's also a mistress of deposed President Estrada.

He said it was Santiago who took the money for him.

"I gave him P200,000," Doble said.

"My fellow agents were ribbing me that I should have asked for more. But I told them that it was not my intention to earn money from the tapes," he added.

Doble said there was no turning back this time from the allegations he was making. He said he had also executed an affidavit to formalize his claims.

Corrections

IN THE AUG. 13 ISSUE, Manuel L. Quezon III's "The Long View" column on Page A15 of the Opinion section—"Fighting a war or defending the peace?"—misstated that Gen. Mark Clark replaced Gen. Douglas MacArthur as Allied commander of the United Nations forces in the Far East. MacArthur's successor was Lt. Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway—not Clark.

* * *

IN THE AUG. 19 ISSUE, the front-page banner story—"15 Marines die in battle"—misstated that Al-Barka in Basilan was formerly known as Tipo-Tipo. Al-Barka was carved out of Tipo-Tipo town and made a separate municipality. Tipo-Tipo still exists as a municipality with 11 barangays. The same mistake appeared in previous stories.

* * *

IN THE AUG. 20 ISSUE, a Lifestyle article on Page C2—"A blast from Tita King"—misspelled the first name of a National Artist for Dance. The National Artist's name is Lucrecia—not Lucresia—Kasilag.

* * *

IN THE AUG. 21 ISSUE, a front-page story— "Narvasa: We should close book on Ninoy's murder"—misspelled the first name of a member of the Agrava Fact-Finding Board. The board member's name is Amado—not Amando—Dizon.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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Palace to invoke EO 464 over again

From page A1

the appearance of officials to be summoned to any Senate inquiry.

EO 464 bars government officials from appearing in congressional hearings without Ms Arroyo's consent.

Ms Arroyo issued the order in September 2005 while the Senate was investigating the "Hello Garci" scandal, the fertilizer scam and the Venable contract issue.

The high court declared portions of the EO unconstitutional for curtailing the congressional power to get information for its inquiries in aid of legislation.

The high tribunal, however, declared constitutional the President's right to ban executive officials from appearing during the Question Hour in Congress.

Executive privilege

Under the doctrine of executive privilege, the President may disallow the disclosure of classified and confidential information between her and certain public officials, specifically if these are matters affecting national security and public order; information between inter-government agencies prior to the conclusion of treaties of executive agreements; and discussions in closed-door Cabinet meetings.

Ermita said he had thought that the Garci tape issue "was behind us, but since a senator delivered a privilege speech on it, we'll have to go by the rules of the Senate and also by what is provided for in the Constitution on when and how members of the executive should be attending the inquiries."

"We will just go by what the Supreme Court decision is all about, the intent of the Supreme Court decision, so we will just invoke that, but not to make anything difficult for anybody," Ermita added.

Questions in advance

He said Malacañang would allow officials to appear if the Senate would state the proposed legislation involved in its investigation, and submit questions in advance.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez believes the military could invoke EO 464 and snub the planned Senate hearing.

"I think the military can invoke that. That is sustained by the Supreme Court," Gonzalez told reporters.

Gonzalez also thinks the military should not attend the Senate hearing.

"I think they should refuse unless the Commander-in-Chief will allow it because the Supreme Court said the chain of command has to be followed," he said. *With a report from Leila B. Salaverria*

Castro, war vets' leader, dies; 83

BRIG. GEN. BIENVENIDO R. Castro AFP, highly decorated combat veteran of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars who spent his final years working for the welfare of Korean War veterans, died recently from leukemia. He was 83.

His body lies at the St. Ignatius mortuary in Camp Aguinaldo. Interment will be be on Saturday at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Castro is survived by his wife, Aurora, children and in-laws Yvonne, Jojit and Lyn, Kit and Jovy, Malou, Kathy and Pierre, Dawn and Arfie, Bernard and Suzette and Tom; and 17 grandchildren.

Castro was president of the Peftok Veterans Association, Inc. (PVAI) from 1998 until his death. He was also first vice president of the International Federation of Korean War Veterans Associations (IFKWA) and worked for the peaceful reunification of the two Koreas.

Peftok or the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea consisted of five battalion combat teams (BCTs) that fought in the Korean War (1950-53) and helped police South Korea from 1954-55 following the signing of the Armistice in 1953.

Castro served in Korea as a 2nd lieutenant and forward observer in the field artillery battery of the 20th BCT, the second BCT sent to Korea. The 20th fought in battles against communist North Koreans and Chinese along the demilitarized zone (DMZ) in which artillery firepower was a dominant factor.

In Vietnam, Castro served in the Philippine Civic Action Group (Philcag) stationed in Tay Ninh province. Castro was a guerrilla in World War 2 and a member of the UP Vanguard. He was also a member of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 23, 2007
20th Week in Ordinary Time
Rose of Lima

1st Reading:	Jdg 11:29-39
Gospel:	Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus began to address the chief priests and elders of the people, once more using parables:

"This story throws light on the kingdom of heaven. A king celebrated the wedding of his son. He sent his servants to call the invited guests to the wedding feast, but the guests refused to come.

"Again he sent other servants ordering them to say to the invited guests: 'I have prepared a banquet, slaughtered my fattened calves and other animals, and now everything is ready; come then, to the wedding feast.' But they paid no attention and went away, some to their fields, and others to their work. While the rest seized the servants of the king, insulted them and killed them.

"The king became angry. He sent his troops to destroy those murderers and burn their city. Then he said to his servants: 'The wedding banquet is prepared, but the invited guests were not worthy. Go, then, to the crossroads and invite everyone you find to the wedding feast.'

"The servants went out at once into the streets and gathered everyone they found, good and bad alike, so that the hall was filled with guests.

"The king came in to see those who were at table, and he noticed a man not wearing the festal garment. So he said to him: 'Friend, how did you get in without the wedding garment?' But the man remained silent. So the king said to his servants: 'Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the dark where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

"Know that many are called, but few are chosen."

Commentary

The spirit of the Lord comes upon Jephthah and he vows to save the people from the Ammonites. And if he triumphs he will give God "whoever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me when I return in triumph." And he shall offer him up as a holocaust. Was he expecting a servant? What he does is against the law of Yahweh. From the time of Abraham there has been no human sacrifice in Israel so what Jephthah does is against everything in the tradition—it is his choice and his sin. It is a despicable story that is to instill horror. This is primitive society and primitive religion and they have much to learn of God's true nature and a long way to go in developing what it means to obey God and imitate God and give God what it is that God desires. And he never desires the life of anyone ever. Jesus himself was killed, equally horribly, and it was excused as necessary by leaders and people alike. But we belong to the God of the banquet who welcomes all and there are no enemies.

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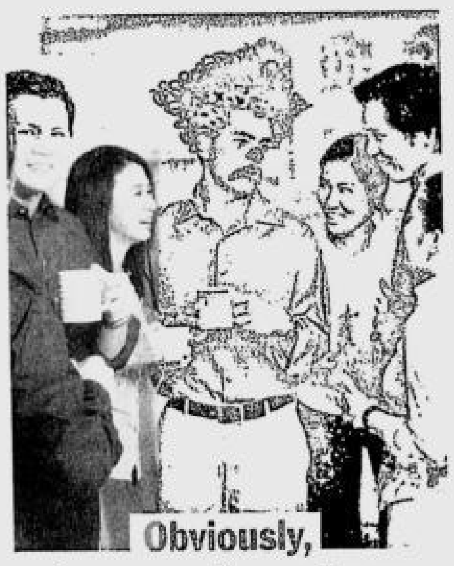
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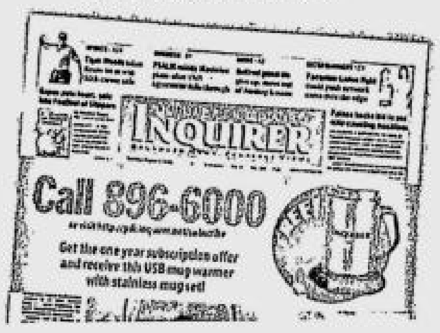
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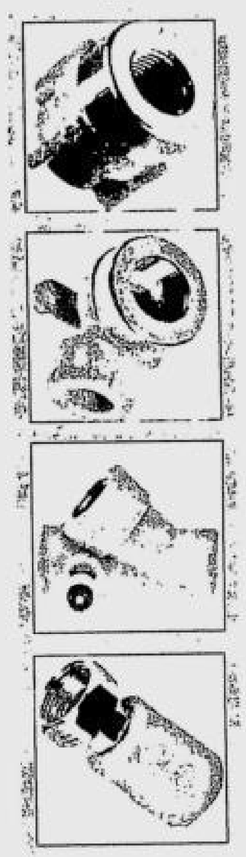
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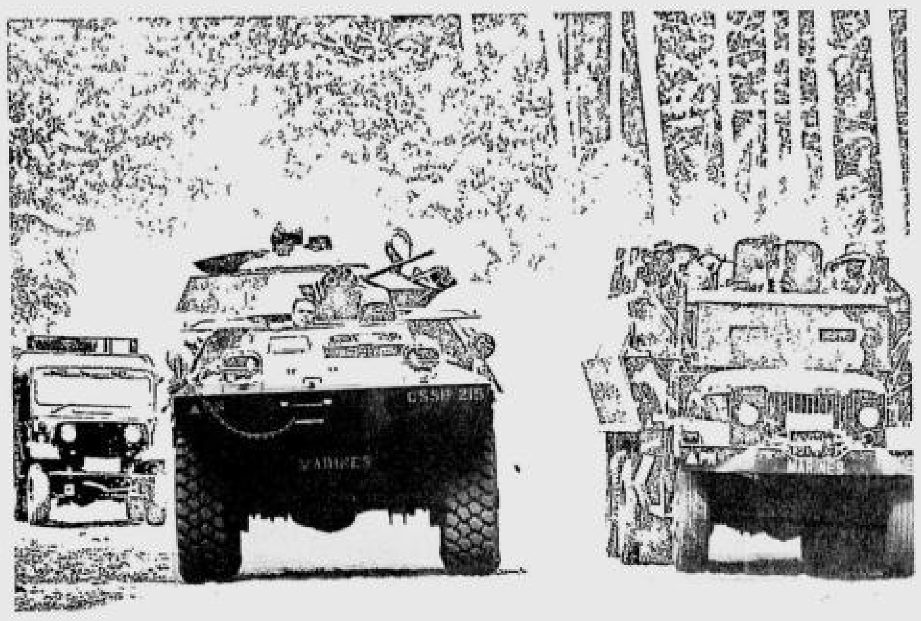


DEEPER INTO THE JUNGLE, a Marine convoy closes in on the enemy camp in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan. EDWIN BACASMAS

WAITING BY THE WAYSIDE: Evacuees in Barangay Sungkayot near the battle scene by the Abu Sayyaf camp in Tipo-Tipo, Basilan, wait for the benefits of the "humanitarian offensive" President Arroyo launched to help residents displaced by the conflict. EDWIN BACASMAS

Marine commander in Basilan sacked

From page A1

"A brigade commander will be more effective if he would be near the troops during operations and so we have put in there a commander who I think would … take all the opportunity to be with his troops," he said.

Col. Rustico Guerrerro, head of the Marine Corps Training Center in Fort Bonifacio, will replace Alivio, Esperon announced.

Alivio confirmed to the Inquirer his relief. "I welcome any move from the higher headquarters," said Alivio, who declined to give further details. "I have no regrets. My conscience is clear."

Under investigation

A ranking Marine officer who did not wish to be identified said Alivio's relief was related to the July 10 incident in Al-Barka, Basilan, where 14 soldiers were killed. Ten of them were subsequently beheaded by troops of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Alivio is undergoing investigation for the incident, the officer said.

Esperon also disclosed that Alivio had supervised the movement of his troops that assaulted an Abu Sayyaf camp in Ungkaya Pukan, also in Basilan, on Aug. 18 from his headquarters in Isabela City. That raid cost the lives of 15 Marine soldiers.

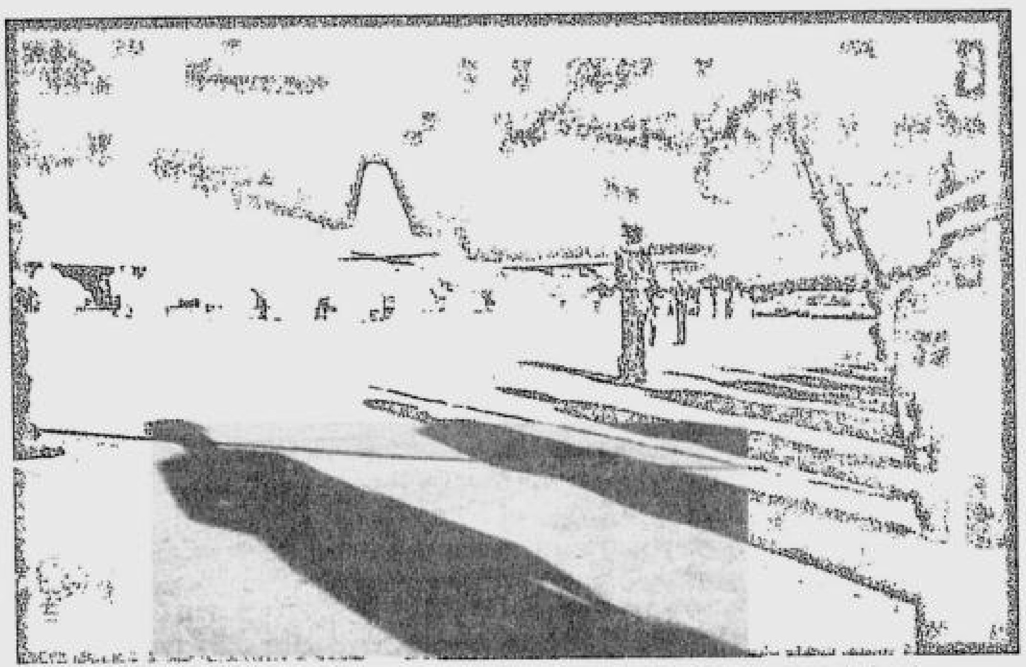
The military has lost 29 Marine soldiers in Basilan since July 10 and 27 Army soldiers in the campaign in Sulu.

"I don't contest the assessment of Colonel Alivio that he has to remain in his headquarters while the operations are going on, but I believe a brigade commander will be more effective if he will be near the troops during operations," Esperon said.

It is "automatic" that when a brigade commander has two battalions on pursuit operations, "you should be in that operations, not in the headquarters," he said.

Told that Alivio was not in charge of the Aug. 18 assault of the Abu Sayyaf camp in Ungkaya Pukan, Esperon acknowledged that Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, head of Task Force Thunder, was "in charge of the whole operations" on that fateful day.

"But I wish Colonel Alivio would have been more forward. I know that he could control the troops from where he was, but I would have preferred that he be nearer the troops," he added.



HOME IS THE SOLDIER: Full honors were accorded the Marines slain in Basilan on arrival at the Villamor Air Base on Monday. JESS YUSON

Not end of career

Esperon stressed that Alivio would be assigned to another position where his intelligence background would serve the organization best. "If you ask me if this is the end of his career, no, he is a very good officer and therefore we will put him in another position," he said.

Ermita said that from Zamboanga, Ms Arroyo will proceed to Bohol on Friday to preside over a peace and security summit for Central Visayas.

He said that the President had ordered Cabinet secretaries to go to Mindanao to implement the "humanitarian offensive" to help the people displaced by the conflict.

The Marine officer, who declined to be identified, told the Inquirer in Zamboanga that personnel at the 15th Strike Wing, which provides assault aircraft to 3rd Tactical Operations Wing (TOW) at Edwin Andrews Air Base, were also under investigation for the ditch landing of an MG520 attack helicopter on Aug. 18 on Umaloy Island in Basilan.

Col. Reynaldo Ramirez, commander of the 3rd TOW, said a technical problem was the main cause of the crash landing resulting in the death of 2nd Lt. Claudio Unaundo and the wounding of 1st Lt. Hermilino Calibiran.

Other investigations

Still to be investigated are the Aug. 8 and 9 clashes in Parang and Maimbung towns.

The officer said Sabban might be held "liable for doctrinal misutilization of the Force Reconnaissance Company (FRCoy).

"They are not meant to engage the enemy but to find them (ASG) for the infantry men, artillery or aircraft to attack," said the officer.

The FRCoy is the unit of Marine soldiers that fought the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Unkaya Pukan on Saturday, leaving five junior officers and 10 enlisted personnel dead.

The FRCoy members were completing their training on close-quarter combat and were sent to the Abu Sayyaf lair in Unkaya Pukan as a test mission.

"The most that they (FRCoy) can do is to raid followed by a swift withdrawal, never pitch battle with the enemy," the Marine officer added.

'Doomed to debacle'

Citing the manner of how the FRCoy troops were utilized, the Marine officer said "they were doomed to debacle based on the intent of the operation."

He said Sabban committed the same error during the Sept. 4, 2006, operation in Barangay Tugas in Patikul, Sulu, when the 1st FRCoy Class 12 under Lt. Romulo Dimayuga was sent on a test mission.

Dimayuga led a platoon of 27 Marine soldiers and encountered more than 200 bandits that led to the death of six soldiers and the wounding of 19 others, including Dimayuga.

Son of Mindanao with passion for peace is new Army chief

From page A1

He will officially take over command of the Army today, replacing Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, who will reach the mandatory retirement age of 56.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has dispatched Tolentino to Zamboanga City to oversee operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

Many believe Yano was chosen by Ms Arroyo as the 49th Army chief not only because of his vast knowledge of the Mindanao problem but also because of his seniority and proven competence.

Yano, 54, was born to public school teacher parents in Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte.

Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, welcomed Yano's appointment.

Good combat soldier

"While he's a good combat soldier, he has a peace paradigm. We were together before in the ceasefire committee and I knew him as a professional, upright and competent military officer," Dureza said.

He urged the Mindanao leaders to rally behind Yano's leadership not just because he is from Mindanao but above all because he is a good and experienced military officer.

Dureza described Yano as a "tiger" yet a "charismatic diplomat" who is determined to win the hearts and minds of his enemy at the negotiating table.

Yano served as chair of the government's Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities in 2004.

FAREWELL BOODLE FIGHT: Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano, currently chief of the Southern Luzon Command, joins his staff on Wednesday at Camp Nakar, Lucena City, for the traditional military feast before he takes over as chief of the Philippine Army on Friday. DELFIN T. MALLARI JR./INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

No ceasefire violation

During his term, there was no ceasefire violation by government forces, earning him the respect of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Brig. Gen. Alfredo Cayton, who succeeded Yano as commanding officer of the 601st Army Brigade here in 2004, himself is an admirer of Yano.

Cayton and Yano were commissioned in the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 1976, but Yano graduated from the Philippine Military Academy, while Cayton was a product of the Reserved Officer's Training Course.

"Since we were second lieutenants, I know him as an outstanding field officer and command staff instructor," Cayton said.

'Liberator of Cabatangan'

As head of Task Force Zamboanga, Yano used diplomacy and military action to secure the release after two days of more than 100 hostages taken in Cabatangan by the Moro National Liberation Front.

For this, the late Zamboanga City Mayor Ma. Clara Lobregat gave Yano the moniker "Liberator of Cabatangan."

Yano, currently chief of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) at Camp Nakar in Lucena City, joined his staff yesterday in a farewell "boodle fight" consisting of steamed rice, broiled fish, pork menudo, fried chicken and sautéed "bagoong" spread out on banana leaves on a long table.

Yano received a framed Batangas *balisong* (fan knife) as farewell gift from the Solcom staff. In return, he distributed jogging outfit and urged his men to continue the "fun run" to remain physically fit.

Southern Luzon campaign

Since July 31 last year when Yano became Solcom chief, his forces in the Southern Tagalog and the Bicol region killed 52 communist guerrillas in 158 government-initiated encounters and 58 enemy attacks, according to the Solcom newsletter.

Government soldiers suffered 24 casualties and 63 wounded in the clashes.

During the same period, Solcom troops captured 92 suspected rebels and worked out the surrender of 51.

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Obaniana, chief of the Eastern Mindanao Command, will replace Yano at Solcom. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Gonzalez uses Aragoncillo case vs GMA detractors

From page A1

would be involved, he said: "I said tit-for-tat with the Senate, I did not say Lacson." Aquino was a former aide and close friend of Lacson.

Lacson was the one who presented the testimony of former T/Sgt. Vidal Doble about President Macapagal-Arroyo's alleged conversation with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano during the May 2004 presidential election.

But Gonzalez said he would have still pursued the Philippine connection to Aragoncillo's espionage case even if the Senate had not revived the Garcillano issue since he had already written the US government about the coconspirators even before.

Gonzalez said that after the DOJ has transcribed 12 compact discs of conversations provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he would study what cases could be filed against the coconspirators.

He said he had not finished going over two thick binders of transcripts of court hearings and other documents related to the espionage cases, but he said names of local politicians have been mentioned.

But Gonzalez said that even if he does not file any case, he could release the information and it would embarrass those involved.

"Maybe even if I do not file any case, I can serialize all these testimonies and that will embarrass a lot of people already," he said.

He also said that in the course of the testimonies in the espionage case, the Kuratong Baleleng issue about the alleged rubout of robbery suspects, allegedly by policemen, was mentioned.

"The testimonies which mentioned about Kuratong Baleleng etcetera will embarrass some people," he said.

Lacson was among those earlier linked to the alleged rubout of kidnappers.

The CDs, transcripts and other documents related to Aragoncillo and Aquino were sent to Gonzalez by the US Attorney General four days ago.

Who's who

The documents include a statement by Aragoncillo where he said among those whom he had talked to were former President Joseph Estrada, JV Ejercito, Charlie Serapio and Crispin Remulla.

The CDs were provided by the FBI and covered the people who called Aragoncillo and Aquino. The two got convicted because of the CDs, according to Justice Undesecretary Ernesto Pineda.

Aragoncillo was sentenced to 10 years in prison for stealing and passing secret US documents as part of an alleged plot to topple the Arroyo administration, while Aquino got a six-year sentence for admitting to possessing secret documents about the US confidential intelligence sources and methods.

'Live witness'

According to Gonzalez, there was a "live witness" in the Philippines but who he thinks would be afraid to testify.

The justice secretary also said US prosecutors had expressed willingness to testify in the Philippines if a hearing would be conducted here.

"As a matter of fact, we have an assurance from the prosecutor in the States that they will be willing to testify here if there's a hearing," he said.

Pardon for Ninoy's killers now in GMA's hands

A POSSIBLE PARDON FOR THE CONvicted killers of martyred opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr. may now be in the hands of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The application for executive clemency from 14 of the 16 soldiers sentenced to life imprisonment for the assassination of Aquino 24 years ago is under review by the Office of the President, according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Ermita said the Bureau of Pardons and Parole had recommended a grant of executive clemency.

However, there were "political implications" that have to be considered by Ms Arroyo, said Ermita.

The victim of the assassination was a senator whose wife eventually became President, "so you can see the political implications of this," he said.

Absolute power

"All these things come into the evaluation of whatever action the President can take. But the President has absolute power under the Constitution on the matter," he said.

The President did not attend the mass for Aquino at his tomb last Tuesday but "led members of her Cabinet in a minute of silent prayer," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Aquino's younger sister Lupita Aquino-Kashiwahara, who is the President's image director, said the President had to attend to pressing concerns like the Mindanao conflict.

"She's very busy, Tuesday is a sacred day for her. It's the [day of the] Cabinet meeting, so she's very focused on her work," she said.

In 1990, 16 soldiers were convicted and sentenced to double-life imprisonment for the Aug. 21, 1986 killing of Aquino and Rolando Galman, Aquino's alleged assassin.

They were mostly members of the Aviation Security Command SWAT team that arrested Aquino and took him from the China Airlines plane at the Manila International Airport on his return from exile in the United States.

Convicted of the crime were the Avsecom chief, Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio, Capt. Romeo Bautista, 2nd Lt. Jesus Castro, and Sergeants Claro L. Lat, Arnulfo de Mesa, Filomeno Miranda, Rolando de Guzman, Ernesto Mateo, Rodolfo Desolong, Ruben Aquino and Arnulfo Artates, Constable Rogelio Moreno, M/Sgt. Pablo Martinez, C1C Mario Lazaga, A1C Cordova Estelo and A1C Felizardo Taran.

Custodio died of cancer while in prison in 1991. Estelo was stabbed dead in 2005 by another inmate.

Michael Lim Ubac

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MIKEY ARROYO

Mikey: Who, me? A smuggler?

By Christian V. Esguerra

SMUGGLER? DON'T LOOK AT me.

The elder son of President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said he did not feel alluded to as the "congressman very, very close to the President" who was behind smuggling operations at the Subic freeport.

Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo said this was because he had nothing to do with these illegal activities and was, in fact, supporting a renewed government crackdown against big-time smugglers.

"I don't feel alluded to," he told the INQUIRER.

Citing records of smuggling activities at Clark and Subic, Sen. Panfilo Lacson had earlier alleged that one of the biggest smugglers in the former American naval base was someone belonging to Ms Arroyo's inner circle.

Sen. Richard Gordon, former head of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, then alleged that one of these smugglers was a "congressman" who was "very, very close to the President."

The President's younger son, Dato, and brother-in-law Ignacio are also congressmen.

Mikey Arroyo said it was possible that there were people using his name for their smuggling activities.

"It's not my fault," he said. "It's the fault of the people dropping my name."

He said he had asked his mother Tuesday night to tell heads of government agencies "never to entertain people using my name."

"If there are people involved in illegal activities, they should just catch them right away," he said. "For the record, I've made this call time and again."

Arroyo said he had also written and phoned the Bureau of Customs, Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group, National Bureau of Investigation, and the Philippine National Police to guard against people using his name.

Solons complain of lean staffs, delayed salaries

By Christian V. Esguerra

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF Representatives are complaining about the delay in the release of their salaries, nearly a month after the opening of the 14th Congress.

Lawmakers reportedly receive a basic monthly salary of at least P30,000. Not included, of course, is a monthly office allowance of about P200,000 and an annual community development fund allotment or pork barrel of around P65 million.

"(As of) today, we haven't received our salary," Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis complained in a privilege speech on Tuesday.

Cibac Rep. Joel Villanueva added that about half of the lawmakers were experiencing a similar problem. He said this number included party-list lawmakers aligned with the political opposition.

"It's tough because without the salary, a congressman would have to spend for the wages of his staff members," he told the INQUIRER.

No quality bills

A congressman is allowed six staff members, each receiving from P9,000 to P25,000 monthly, according to the lawmaker.

Solis'concern was not exclusive to the problem of delayed salaries.

In his speech, he said a six-member staff was not enough to support legislative work.

"Not all of us can file quality legislation because we lack researchers," he said.

He also moved that the committee on accounts submit the annual budget of the House to the committee on appropriations for scrutiny.

"If we are advocating transparency in this government, let us start with our own house," he said. "Upon scrutiny of the present budget, we'll determine whether we need to (hire) additional personnel or whether we have enough funds (that) are not spent."

During interpellation, Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla agreed with the need to open the books of the House for perusal of its members. But he disagreed with the proposal to increase the number of staff members.

He noted that the 8th Congress produced 35,000 bills, 1,000 of which were enacted into law. In contrast, the 13th Congress produced only 3,500 bills and not even 100 of them became law, he said.

Disini brod loses immunity

By Jerry E. Esplanada

FOR REFUSING TO TESTIFY IN the Sandiganbayan in an ill-gotten wealth case, a cousin of businessman and Marcos crony Herminio Disini has been stripped of immunity from civil and criminal suits by the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

The PCGG revoked its 1989 immunity agreement with Jesus Disini, who gave information on the business dealings of his second cousin, Herminio, with the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Herminio was a golfing crony of the dictator.

However, Jesus refused to appear and testify at the Sandiganbayan hearings in May and June of PCGG Civil Case No. 13 against Herminio and several other respondents.

Following Jesus' refusal to testify, Justice Undersecretary Ricardo Paras III was called in as a witness during a hearing last Aug. 14 to identify the sworn statement that Jesus Disini had executed before him in 1989 when Paras was a justice department undersecretary.

PCGG commissioner Nicasio Conti, who co-heads the agency's litigation division, said the PCGG was revoking Jesus' immunity from suit "for the continued pursuit of the mandate of the PCGG to recover ill-gotten wealth."

In the 1989 affidavit, Jesus admitted to being the senior vice president of the Herdis Group, a holding company which owned several companies put up by Herminio.

Jesus "also stated that based on his personal knowledge, the late President Ferdinand Marcos owned two-thirds of Herdis Group while the remaining one-third belongs to Herminio Disini."

Jesus disclosed that the Herdis Group was involved in the construction of the now mothballed nuclear power plant in Morong, Bataan, said Conti.

"[Jesus] Disini also said that he believed that commissions were paid by Westinghouse to his cousin Herminio who was retained by [Westinghouse] because of his closeness to the late President," he said.

In his affidavit, Jesus also stated that "he believed the commissions were shared by Herminio Disini and Marcos because of the latter's ownership of the Herdis Group," Conti said.

In PCGG Case No. 13, the government charged Herminio Disini and Rodolfo Jacob of acting as dummies of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos in acquiring and exercising control over the Herdis Group of companies, Energy Corp., Vulcan Industrial Mining, United Oriental Bank and Three M.

RP to host hospice meet

THE PHILIPPINES, THROUGH the initiative of Philippine Cancer Society, Hospice Philippines and Department of Health, will host the 7th Asia Pacific Hospice Conference (APHC), a biennial conference that brings together different experts in the region to discuss the current updates, challenges and best practices in hospice and palliative care.

The conference will be held on Sept. 27-29 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza with the theme, "Nurturing Partnerships in Hospice Care."

The global hospice movement is teeming with new ideas, activities and opportunities to develop higher standards in enhancing the quality of life of the chronically and terminally ill. Bringing the 7th APHC to the Philippines will help Filipinos hone their skills in various aspects of hospice care including palliative care education, pain management, ethical issues, symptom management and others, conference chairperson Dr. Alberto B. Roxas said.

Medical professionals like doctors, nurses and caregivers as well as specialty groups and families of hospice patients will learn many things from renowned hospice authorities and practitioners from Australia, New Zealand, India, Malaysia, Singapore, United States, Philippines and other countries who will lead the scientific presentations and discussions in the conference.

Certificates of attendance will be given and "early bird" rates are offered up to Aug. 31 only.

A pre-conference seminar on Physical Suffering and Ethical Issues in Clinical Decision Making will also be held on Sept. 26 at the BSLR East and West of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital College of Medicine.

M. Encanto; 62

LAWYER MERVYN G. ENCANTO passed away yesterday, Aug. 22. He was 62.

He is survived by his wife, Georgina Reyes Encanto, daughters Melissa, Katrina and Gela, his mother Socorro Garzon Encanto, brothers Dr. Romeo Encanto and Epraim Encanto and sisters, Evelyn E. Salao and Julie E. Almazan.

A graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Law Class '69, Encanto seved as the national president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines from 1993 to 1995; president of the Law Association of Asia and the Pacific (Lawasia) from 1999 to 2001; and the current president of the Transparency International Philippines.

He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of the Philippines Visayas Foundation and of the Sigma Rho fraternity.

Encanto was the executive vice president of the Philippine National Bank from 1998-2005.

This should have been included in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9480 under Department Order No. 29-07 published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, August 21, 2007, Main Section Page A6.

"Section 5. Exceptions. –

6. Those with pending criminal cases filed in court for felonies of frauds, illegal exactions and transactions and malversation of public funds and property under CHAPTERS III and IV of Title VII of the Revised Penal Code and;"

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It's the basics, stupid

EDITORIAL

FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER A CONGRESSIONAL COMmission defined the problems besetting the education system, much remains to be done to check and reverse the worsening state of basic education. Some of the commission's recommendations have been adopted, such as the establishment of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda). But it seems the separation of higher learning and vocational education from the responsibility of the old Department of Education, Culture and Sports has only underscored the knotty state of basic education and along with that, the problematic bureaucracy and workings of the new but graft-prone Department of Education (DepEd).

As the INQUIRER series, "Education in Crisis," demonstrated, despite the commission's findings and recommendations, education has taken a turn for the worse. A Unesco report ranked the Philippines 74th in terms of the Education Development Index, below Mongolia, Vietnam, Indonesia and China. Results of the National Elementary Achievement Test and National Secondary Achievement Test showed that students could only correctly answer less than 50 percent of the questions. And Philippine students performed poorly in the Trends in International Mathematics and Science study, ranking 41st in a field of 45 in Science and 42nd in Math.

Apparently the education system faces two major challenges: access to education and quality. The commission already identified 15 years ago the need to stress basic public education because that's all the formal schooling the masses of Filipinos get and because they are entitled to that constitutionally. But the shortage of classrooms has become graver through the years—some 41,000 as of this year, which means P16 billion is needed for the construction of new classrooms. The student-teacher ratio is the worst in the region so that the Philippines has an average class size of 43.9 students in public elementary schools and 56.1 in public high schools.

The sticky problem of access to education can be seen in the high dropout rate. Fifty-one percent of Filipinos have had only elementary education. Only 14.3 percent of rural poor Filipinos graduate from high school or have higher educational attainment.

Access, of course, refers to "quantity." And when numbers are involved, can corruption be far behind? This seems to bug Sen. Edgardo Angara, who headed the congressional commission. He said that a tremendous amount of money has been given the DepEd by international donors and business concerns but it has nothing to show for that. No assessment has been made of the impact of the scarce resources put by donors and businesses into the DepEd. The needs of the DepEd are "a bottomless pit," he concluded.

Angara also expressed suspicion about DepEd statistics, which he described as "inaccurate, sometimes even falsified."

Eventually, issues of quantity, including accuracy of statistics, have a bearing on the other major problem of Philippine education: quality. In fact, the report had suggested the close link between quantity and quality, arguing that since throwing money into the system would not be good enough, then it would be better to go for value-added—quality, in other words. "There's only one thing we can do," the commission report said. "We must extract more efficiency and more productivity from both our education budget and our education department."

There's the rub. As Angara has said, there has been no impact report on the money poured into the DepEd by donors and businesses. For example, multilateral and bilateral institutions have poured millions into textbook development, but the textbook regime of the DepEd remains under a cloud of doubt over defective and substandard textbooks. Moreover, Congress keeps on passing laws establishing new public schools without checking if existing schools are delivering the goods well. Meanwhile, the government is pushing for an ambitious cyber education program that would be backed by international funding, except that even Filipino IT experts doubt if the Philippines has the competence to establish and manage such a program; and in any case, what's immediately needed is to address the basic lack of classrooms and teachers, not the lack of multimedia.

Obviously education reforms are needed, but they should start at the heart of the matter: a bureaucracy that is supposed to address the needs of the education system but can't get the basics right.

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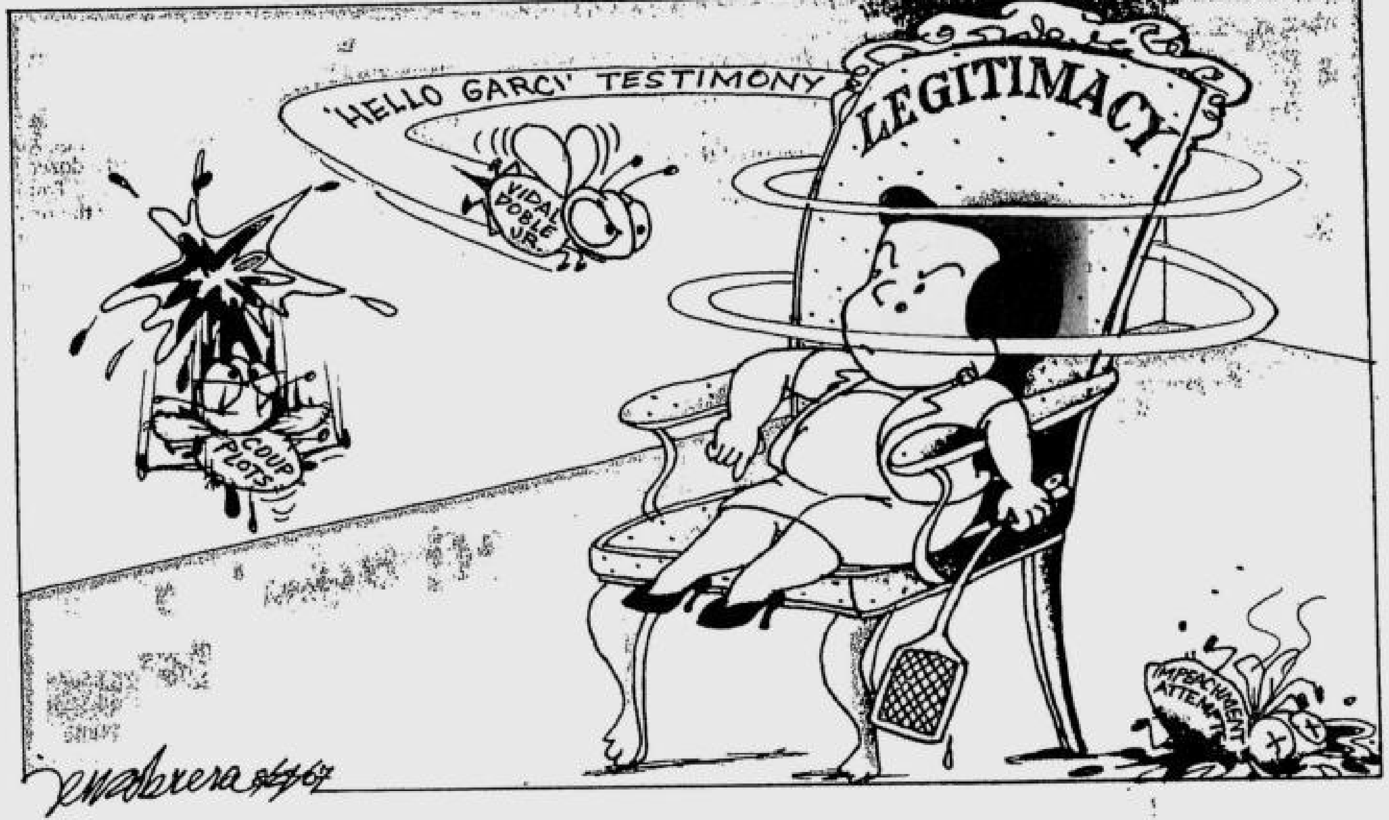

A glint of sapphire

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

("Can anybody guarantee that we will make it to our golden anniversary?" the wife asked. "Only a fool is confident he will live until evening," I replied. So, we marked our 45th or sapphire anniversary. Pardon us for being personal for once. Here's what Lydia and I told our kids and friends who joined us.)

J: THE BROADWAY PLAY "CAMELOT" FEAtured a song that described our state of mind 45 years ago. It's an experience, we think, many couples go through on the day they get married.

"I wonder what the king is doing tonight?" goes the opening line of the song on the eve of the Camelot ruler's marriage. He's numb, the singer continues. He quakes. He's scared. "He wishes he were in Scotland / Fishing tonight."

OK, so I didn't quake. But like many other grooms, I was numb. Wedding details also left Lydia with little sleep. "I'm faint," she murmured as the priest began to read those questions on free choice that anchor marriage.

Thus, the ancient exhortation is often smothered by "m-e-g-o" (mine eyes glaze over). It's a pity. For the rite capsulizes what marriage is all about. "Covenanted love" is the phrase used in the modern text. This will date us. But we prefer the pre-Vatican II version: "married love, loyal and true to the end."

L: That vision was not pulled out of thin air. It comes from 2,000 years of the Church's deeply human experience. For this sapphire anniversary, we revisited the text. Listen to this:

"You begin your married life, by the voluntary surrender of your individual lives, in the interest of the deeper and wider life you are to have in common. That future, with its hopes and disappointments, its pleasures and pains, its joys and sorrows, its successes and failures, is hidden from your eyes now. Yet, these elements are mingled in every life. They are to be expected in your own."

An iron-clad commitment follows: "And so, not knowing what is before you, you take each other for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do you part."

J: What was the future then is now the past for us. So, where did those 45 years go? In the play "Fiddler on the Roof," Tevye and Golda sing: "Sunrise, sunset/ Swiftly flow the years/ One season following another/ Laden with happiness and tears." Is this Broadway's inimitable rendering of Ecclesiastes?

A sapphire anniversary provides invaluable premiums. By then, you've put aside rose-tinted glasses. Your eyes have now "kept watch o'er man's mortality." And was it not the Little Flower who spoke about how we all need a "spirituality that is without illusion"?

L: A sapphire anniversary also gives one time—to remember, time to be grateful. You give thanks for the good days as well as thanks for the not-so-good days.

Every marriage has its storms—more times than young couples imagine and more times than older ones, like us, care to remember. All too often, the snapping point seems to come. One or the other wonders: "Is there any point in going on?"

"They have no more wine," Our Lady told her Son at the wedding feast at Cana.

J: Yet, there is no other way forward, but through each other. Fulfillment is only possible, you discover, through the person you vowed to honor and cherish, in good days and in bad. Indeed, there is a kernel of truth in the old joke that there are only six, not seven, sacraments, because marriage and penance are one.

Re-read the ancient exhortation: "And if the unselfish spirit of sacrifice guides your every action, you can expect the greatest measure of earthly happiness that may be allotted to a person in this life. The rest is in the hands of God."

L: Forty-five years later, the gift of children has become, for many like us, a reward of adults, able to stand on their own. They enrich your twilight years with the love they give back, but specially for the grandchildren. "Your children shall be as olive plants around your table."

"What about the next 45 years?" friends ask you half-jokingly. The only answer we can give is what the past 45 years have taught us: Without fail, God's love always rose before each dawn. That will not change in the little time left for us.

Indeed, we can attest that God can change the water of tepid human affection into His wine—"pure married love, loyal and true to the end." And He does this by His presence. "There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee," John tells us in his Gospel. "And the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and His disciples were likewise invited." That presence is the sacramental grace of marriage. You catch a glint of sapphire.

J: An anniversary like this also allows you to catch your breath. "And now, both weary with our silly quarrels, we can rest awhile," George Bernanos writes. "We sit together and breathe in the deep peace of the evening—which we shall enter together."

Many couples have their favorite lines on what "covenanted love" can mean. We have ours, too. In his poem "When You Are Old," Yeats writes: "But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you/ And loved the sorrows of your changing face."

Then, there is, of course, Broadway. "Golda! Do you love me?" Tevye suddenly asks.

L: And Golda replies: "For 25 years, I've lived with him; / Fought with him, starved with him; / cleaned his house, cooked his meals; / Given him children / For 25 years, my bed is his; / If that's not love, what is?"

And for the first time, in 45 years, we sang together the last line of the song—to blow the socks off our startled children.

L & J: "It doesn't change a thing / But even so / After 45 years, it's nice to know."

* * *

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Let there be light

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I'VE FOLLOWED CLOSELY OUR SERIES ON the state of our education and found it more horrifying than any horror story in the movies or on TV. Much of it, of course, is something most of us already know, or have suspected, but it still dismays when set out in black and white. Truly, you wonder where we're headed.

There are facts and figures aplenty to drive home the point of our falling into the pit of ignorance, but what particularly struck me is how we've fallen behind Vietnam, Mongolia and Indonesia in clawing out of the hole. We ranked 74th in the Unesco Education Development Index, Vietnam, Mongolia and Indonesia ranked 65th, 61st and 58th respectively. Vietnam was an abject sight in the 1960s and 1970s, flattened as it was by bomb and bullying. How it picked itself up from that state to zoom past us who were being hailed as the next Japan before Diosdado Macapagal took over is a tale unto itself, one to gape and marvel at.

I don't know how we stand in relation to Thailand, and I don't know that I want to know. I recall that not too long ago, Thais were desperate to study in UP, particularly in Los Baños. It's not just time that has flown, it's a lot of other things, too.

Apparently, many of the ills that afflict Philippine education were pointed out long ago. A congressional commission in 1991 already expressed alarm over the deteriorating education system and recommended several things to arrest it. It noted that throwing more money into education alone wouldn't solve the problem and that even if it could, there wasn't enough money to go around. It called for strengthening basic education—elementary and high school—which is all the education most Filipinos would ever get anyway.

I don't disagree with many of the findings and recommendations of that commission, I disagree with its thrust. It misses the forest for the trees. It's too micro, which is probably why it never got any headway from the start. I myself have only a couple of suggestions on how to stop the free fall. Neither is easy, but I can't see how any kind of progress can be made without them.

The first is, in fact, to put more money into the damn thing. Money itself won't solve the problem, but it sure as hell will go a long way toward doing so. It's like what some bishops say about GMA, which is that removing her won't solve our problems. It won't, but it sure as hell will go a long way toward doing so. I've always stated my case here in strenuous terms: Let's put all our marbles in education. My favorite mechanic doesn't mind eating badly and looking grimy just to get his boy past dentistry and his girl past nursing, I don't see why most Filipinos wouldn't as well. That is the Great Filipino Dream: to get the kids to graduate and have a better life than one has had. Most Filipinos wouldn't mind tightening their belts if they knew they were sacrificing for their kids' future.

"If" is the operative word. Which brings me to: There is money to throw into education, lots and lots of them. That is the Ali Baba treasure being lost to us by corruption. When the congressional commission made its report, we weren't yet the most corrupt country in Asia. Pillage, theft, stealing, however you call it, is not abstract, it is concrete. It has a face. It is the face, or faces, or blank stares, of those whose brains are not lit by the light of learning.

What makes corruption truly odious is when you think of the many millions of children who could have a crack at a better life if all those books, schoolhouses and teachers had not been taken away from them. Corruption is grabbing the food from the mouth of the hungry. It is stealing coins from a beggar.

My second suggestion is infinitely harder but even more necessary. That is a curriculum that emphasizes not just knowledge and skills but "a sense of country," as I've always put it. A country that has been flattened out by war but has a people possessed of a sense of belonging, a sense of pride, a sense of purpose, will always get ahead of a country that does not. What would have surprised me is if Vietnam had **not** gone past us.

The least of the reasons for my suggestion is practical. When the commission made its analysis in 1991, the country hadn't yet seen the Great Diaspora; that would unravel over the next few years. A diaspora that, the Asian Development Bank warns, stands to shoo away foreign investments for lack of skilled personnel left in the country. Where's the sense in investing huge amounts of money to educate people whose first instinct is to work abroad? We're just subsidizing other countries' labor-upgrading costs at degrading cost to ourselves.

But more than that, an education that cannot instill in students a sense of worth and ambition, a sense of capability and desire, an education that can spark in them only the hope of finding work in a call center at home or a care-giving institution abroad, has no business being there. It is not education, it is flagellation. It won't inspire enthusiasm, it will inspire masochism. You know exactly why higher education has gone to the pits when you hear an education czar telling us the problem with it is that it isn't producing the supply that the labor market demands. That is turning the DepEd into the DOLE, that is turning schools into meat grinders.

I know it's impossible to educate most Filipinos of the present generation. But I believe it is perfectly possible even now to produce a critical mass of highly educated Filipinos who have a sense of nation and want to build it, who can strive and drive themselves to fulfill dreams, who believe they can do and not just be content to make do. God has the best advice of all for our educators, or those posing as so:

Let there be light.

A scene worthy of Carlo J. Caparas

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A PANFILO LACSON PRODUCTION IS ALWAYS sleek and made for maximum impact. In his recent Senate PowerPoint exposé, Lacson explained to the senators the technology used by Sgt. Vidal Doble Jr. and his group to tape illegally cell-phone conversations between candidates and Comelec officials, and his listeners concluded that the former police chief knew the subject very well. Among the conversations Doble claims to have eavesdropped on was one allegedly between candidate Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano in 2004, wherein she allegedly demanded an "additional one million votes" from Garci. Doble, a retired Army intelligence agent reportedly assigned at one time to Lacson's PAOCTF, testified that he has the master tape of this sensational conversation and that he decided to surface because he's no longer afraid of the military since he's already retired (what about being afraid of criminal liability?).

The Senate predictably bought the Lacson exposé and will hold hearings as a committee of the whole. But the question is, with all kinds of tapes having surfaced, can anyone prove which one is authentic? So much precious time and taxpayers' money will again be spent in the Senate hearings, but it will be based on the word of Doble, who seems to be taking orders from Lacson.

* * *

Recall that when a tape first surfaced, opposition lawyer Alan Paguia admitted that he had it edited, extracting only the part he wanted. Subsequently NBI Deputy Director Samuel Ong surfaced with what he claimed as the "grandmother of all tapes." Later Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, during a budget hearing, challenged Sen. Rodolfo Biazon to have all the tapes, "from the grandmother and grandfather as well as the children" brought to experts abroad to verify their authenticity. I thought that was a sensible proposal, but the senators never took it up. I recall that Gonzalez also tossed the suggestion to Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, who replied that there was no money for it.

Apparently few are really interested to find out the truth. Many more want to milk the issue for media mileage, especially presidential aspirant Lacson. The sad thing is that so many crucial issues need the Senate's full attention. It's easy to see that after all is said and done in this new Garci round, no one will still be able to prove anything, because everyone knows those tapes have been tampered. What's the point?

* * *

With the military losing 57 soldiers and officers in the fighting in the South since last month, focus is once again on their families as they cope with their personal tragedy. Their plight became more plaintive after a Marine widow recently begged the President not to send more soldiers to the war zone. Sad though their plight is, however, the reality is that soldiering is a high-risk profession and the soldiers' wives and children know this only too well.

This was driven to me with such poignancy about 16 years ago, when my husband was commander of the Second Division based in Tanay. An Army camp in Camarines Sur was attacked by the NPA and there was heavy fighting for many hours. What made it so unforgettable was that the wives of the soldiers joined in the battle. At great risk to themselves, they crept to their husbands to bring and help load new magazines for their Armalites. Some of the soldiers' children, crawling on their bellies, brought water to their fathers. It was a scene worthy of Carlo J. Caparas. When my husband visited the camp later, he was speechless, not over his soldiers' expected bravery, but over the unexpected machismo of their wives and kids.

* * *

Two months after Edsa, my husband, then a brigade commander in Cagayan, and his men ran into a big band of NPA late one afternoon, the first major military encounter for the Cory administration. Fierce fighting went on for an hour, leaving his deputy commander, Col. Alberto Sudiacal, several soldiers and prize-winning photographer Willy Vicoy dead. My husband, very badly injured, was operated on at my request at the Makati Medical Center and took half a year to recuperate at home, while his men, who suffered less serious injuries, were treated at the V. Luna Medical Center. My visits to the soldiers made me realize how much their families need help when they are killed or wounded in action. In May 1986, I invited a dozen friends to help set up Alay sa Kawal (ASK) Foundation to assist widows and orphans of the ordinary soldiers, principally with financial assistance.

* * *

Since then ASK, led by Ambassador Edgardo Espiritu and lawyer Ramon Pedrosa, has helped over 4,000 orphaned families. Our limited resources allow us to give only P30,000 per KIA family, but it helps tide them over while they work for their pensions and other benefits. Moreover, ASK has extended to qualified families scholarships and livelihood assistance, and brought fellowship to brigades and battalions. Our latest project is "Doktor Para sa Kawal," where we fund the medical studies of those who will sign up as military doctors. The recent flare-up of hostilities in the South and elsewhere, however, has seriously affected ASK's financial program, hence we extend the begging bowl. When some widows heard the possibility of ASK's folding up, they tearfully begged us to continue for the benefit of others who will follow them.

* * *

To raise funds for ASK, a dinner-concert titled "Salute to George" will be staged by producer Beth Sison-Tagle on Sept. 13, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza Ballroom in Manila. It will feature classical and pop music from artists such as 2004 Aliw Awardee for Best New Artist George Tagle (backed up by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra), singer Ivy Violan, world champion pianist Angelo Ortiz and renowned soprano Rachelle Gerodias. Please call Beth Tagle at 911-5615 or 438-7200 or cell number 0917-5088-858.

MDG mid-term review: Missing the target

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THE PHILIPPINES IS "OFF THE TRACK," IT'S too soon to celebrate and there is a lot of work that needs to be done to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The year 2007 is midway through the 15-year-long process of achieving the so-called MDGs targeted by the United Nations, but the Philippines is still way off the expected results.

Social Watch Philippines gathered civil society groups last Aug. 15 and 16 to do a mid-term review of the MDGs and came up with conclusions and suggestions. Among them: Government is "missing and messing up the MDG targets" and citizens should therefore help monitor government performance and push for an alternative budget for the MDGs.

The Philippines is one of 189 countries that signed in 2000 the Millennium Declaration and covenant to attain the MDGs by 2015. The MDGs refer to the eight goals and 18 targets that the international community committed to attain in 15 years.

The eight goals are: (1) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; (2) achieve universal primary education; (3) promote gender equality; (4) reduce child mortality; (5) improve maternal health; (6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; (7) ensure environmental sustainability; and (8) develop a global partnership for development.

After presentations by civil society groups working in different regions, Social Watch challenged government pronouncements that the Philippines is on track with majority of the MDGs. The government, Social Watch said, had admitted that the goals with low probability of being achieved are: universal primary education for both participation and survival, maternal mortality ratio (MMR) and access to reproductive health. The government also admitted problems in financing, regional disparities, advocacy, localization and monitoring.

Social Watch concluded that with the way things are, and judging from MDG performance in the last seven years, most of the goals will not be fully met. It cited the 2006 report of UN-Escap, UNDP and the Asian Development Banks that showed that the Philippines was "failing further behind" in relation to countries in Asia and the Pacific.

Social Watch International ranks the Philippines as "very low" in the Basic Capabilities Index (BCI) on a global scale. BCI is based on three indicators: percent of children reaching Grade 5, under-5 mortality, and percentage of birth attended by health personnel.

Minar Pimple, deputy director of the UN's Asia Millennium Campaign, said that globally poverty has been reduced. The number of very poor which used to be 1.25 billion has been reduced to 980 million. Pimple came to attend the Social Watch convention where civil society groups from different regions shared how the MDGs are faring on the ground.

Social Watch convenor Leonor Briones raised questions on the reliability of data presented by the government. Briones, who once headed the Bureau of Treasury, pointed out that national data do not reflect the situation in the regions. "There is disparity between national data and regional data," she said. "Averages are a poor measure." She cited the example of Makati City which could pull up the averages even while the ethnic minorities remain very poor.

Citing key indicators in education such as "participation rate and cohort survival rate," Social Watch noted that these are going down in the elementary and secondary levels. Drop-out rates are rising and the number of out-of-school youth is among the highest in Asia, higher than in Indonesia and Vietnam. The Philippines, Social Watch added, rates very poorly in performance scores in math when compared with other countries.

Inequality is more serious than mere poverty, Social Watch pointed out. The claims that poverty has been reduced in the Philippines, Briones said, is only in terms of national totals which do not reflect reality. National totals are pulled up by the few relatively rich regions.

The Gini Coefficient, which is used to measure inequality, shows that inequality in the Philippines remains high. Social Watch cited the 2003 Family Income and Expenditure Survey that showed that only 2 percent of the total number of families earn more than P500,000 a year, and only 10 families control 52.5 percent of the total market capitalization.

While the Philippines is supposed to have a sound environmental policy, translating these policies into actual programs and allocating the needed resources have been problematic. Social Watch noted inconsistencies in governance, characterized by a high turnover of environment secretaries.

Briones said that among the MDG goals, environmental sustainability remained the least funded at less than one percent of the total budget.

Social Watch criticized the government's overemphasis on the so-called "super regions," which was evident in President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent State of the Nation Address.

"For the past seven years," Social Watch said, "the Sonas which are the bases for budget priorities, hardly noticed the MDGs. Attention has been focused on the super regions these past two years, while the poor are lagging behind in the 'un-super' regions."

Seven years to go and there is still hope for the Philippines to get near the targets. There is need for more civil society groups (forget the incorrigible politicians) to get involved on the ground. There are NGOs that spend so much time, effort and money on political protests and propaganda while the poor they claim to defend continue to languish.

This I need to say out loud: Time also for some of these civil society groups to look into themselves and how they spend the funds entrusted to them by their funders.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Visions in isolation

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

CHARLES DE GAULLE ONCE SAID, "THE LEADer must aim high, see big, judge widely, thus setting himself apart from the ordinary people who debate in narrow confines."

I think it's fair to say that our traditional expectation of our leaders is for them to be visionaries, as De Gaulle believed they ought to be. And yet alongside this—by now, traditional—notion of leadership is what can only be described as rhetorical fatigue: public skepticism when it comes to the grand gesture, alienation from ideas as a means to motivate people and achieve change, impatience when it comes to debate. Instead of a diagnosis, people immediately want prescriptions.

The result is a kind of political schizophrenia: on one hand, people get upset when leaders provide bullet points instead of soaring rhetoric; on the other hand, they complain that the rhetoric is long-winded, old-fashioned, abstract. The end result is a retreat into smaller and smaller areas of concern, and increasingly limited spheres of involvement. And where the people have led the way, the leaders follow. Unable to inspire, they have ceased trying; unable to provide a vision, they bristle, instead, with bullet points; incapable of debate, they proclaim impatience with debate a virtue.

You might as well have a heap of bricks and proclaim the mess a house. It is not, and will never be one: the bricks, to be sure, have the potential to be useful in house-building, but a plan is required and that plan determines whether the house will be a practical home for living or an ostentatious but useless monstrosity. Surely a debate is required, if the bricks are to be used wisely and well. The homeowner must engage in a lively discussion with the architect, both with the contractor, the foreman with the builders, while of course eventually everyone has to do his bit if anything's going to be done.

Last Sunday, I had the good fortune of going to Ilayang Dupay in Lucena City, upon the invitation of Mayor Ramon Y. Talaga Jr. Like most local officials, he is a pragmatic problem-solver by instinct; like many last-termers, he is inclined toward thinking big. Certainly, his ideas are interesting.

He is confident that by the end of his term in 2010, Lucena City will be on its way to achieving four things: first, a dramatic expansion of the capabilities of the port and harbor facilities, which would cut shipping time from the Visayas to Luzon, since cargo wouldn't have to be unloaded in Manila, and it could be sent to other parts of Luzon more quickly, too; second, the building of a modern rail link from Lucena to Manila, which means container cargo can be moved efficiently from ships on to trains and then on to Manila; third, the extension of the South Expressway, cutting travel time from Manila to Lucena to an hour and a half; and fourth, a Lucena-based pilot program to go beyond the proportion of coconut oil in biodiesel from the 1 percent to 3 percent in the Biofuels Act, to as high as 7 percent to 9 percent, which would give a new lease on life to the dying coconut industry (Lucena could become the center for the production and distribution of cocodiesel to neighboring regions).

By 2013, he predicts (that is, if whoever his successor will be doesn't confuse regime change with changing things merely for the sake of changing them) all these will have been achieved. And they are, each one of them, plans that would have a remarkable effect on the commerce not only of Lucena City but of Quezon and neighboring provinces. I would have wanted to ask how these last-term ideas of Talaga fit in (if at all) to the development plans of the first-term governor, Rafael Nantes.

Although Nantes graciously sent two of his staff, Efren Villanueva and Jun Salva, I was unable to accept the governor's invitation to join him at the provincial capitol because of fatigue. His staff, however, spoke glowingly of him (and not just because of their jobs, I think) and perhaps some other time I can make my inquiries. I did have the good fortune of finally meeting Sonny Pulgar, lawyer, former councilor, and blogger.

Sonny and I engaged in a fascinating survey of a province undergoing great changes, where ownership of vast tracts of land are shifting from natives of the province to people from Batangas; and where the coconut industry is in decline, through a combination of a lack of direction from the government and a change in the demographics of the coconut farmers themselves.

The skills required to harvest coconuts are not being handed down. Even as landlords come in from other provinces, those who actually labor are getting old, their children preferring to become seafarers or to work in the Middle East. The trees (there is a local word to describe them, "*mangangawit*") are getting too tall, the harvesters too old. Large and small landowners, battling over land reform, succumb too easily to the temptation to simply chop down the trees (each tree fetches P1,000 for its lumber) and use the money for down payment for, say, a tricycle (at P3,000, that's three trees).

And so you have the possibility of new roads and railways enabling a city to thrive, while it becomes easier for absentee landlords to remain precisely that, and the coconut industry continues decaying, since the workers themselves are shifting to other pursuits. Straddling so many regions, Lucena seems poised for growth, and surely the province, as a whole, has to decide whether to salvage a dying industry or gamble on other things. But I do think it's fair to say that the province has to begin wrestling with vital questions that other provinces, too, have to come to terms with.

You wonder by how these problems can be addressed so that urban and rural aren't at cross-purposes, and each region's efforts get integrated into a national one.

Minutes before takeoff

YOUNG BLOOD

Simon Pavel T. Miranda

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I USED TO BE A PASSENGER SERVICE AGENT FOR ONE OF the ground handling companies at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. I started to work there after I graduated. I was full of enthusiasm every time I punched my time card. I was never late for work and even if I wasn't feeling very well, I still went to work because I loved what I was doing. You see, my job mainly involved assisting passengers to check in for their flights. On any given night, I would help about 100 passengers check in.

For most of my co-workers, those passengers were simply people getting on an airplane. But for me, each had a story which, in the short three minutes that I had to deal with them, I tried my best to know. I interacted with seamen, maids, construction workers, computer programmers, engineers, airline staff, dignitaries, actors, tourists, widows, gays, lesbians, policemen, athletes, managers, sales ladies, Muslims, Christians, etc. And I had three minutes to make them smile or make them mad. (Well, you only made them mad if you told them their luggage exceeded the weight limit, but that's another story.)

Some airline passengers will be back in a few days or months, but most of them will be gone for a long time. So long, in fact, that you can see the sadness in their eyes, with or without tears. And you know that it's not only they who are sad; just outside of our small airport, their relatives (some as many as two jeepney-loads) also feel sad that their loved ones are leaving for another country to work.

True, their salaries are bigger there (wherever that may be), but most overseas workers (including some that I used to work with) fail to consider the fact that their expenses will be the same currency that they will earn. They convert the dollars they will earn into pesos without thinking that they will pay their bills in dollars. Though there are many success stories among OFWs, there are quite many among them who regret their decision to leave the Philippines after finding themselves in a situation they did not expect. Some unfortunate ones are duped by illegal recruiters and end up in jail.

There is nothing wrong with leaving this country. My dad left and worked abroad, but it was our luck that he was able to bring his whole family with him. However, for most OFWs, working abroad means leaving families behind. And this often creates a lot of problems.

Sure, you are able to enroll your children in the best schools, but where will you be when they need your physical presence? To me, no amount can pay for a parent's guidance when a child is growing up. Are you willing to sacrifice your family for the money you will earn? Many will say that the money they earn will ensure a better future for all. But that depends on what kind of future you want.

I think that before anyone decides to leave, he should examine his options, know well the country he is going to and consider his family. Much as I respect OFWs, I salute those who stay behind and work in our country, the same people who stay with their family, work 10 hours a day, ride through traffic and pollution and earn a meager income.

Every day, thousands of Filipinos leave the country. One of the last people they see before boarding their flight is the check-in agent who, after their plane takes off, will take the jeepney home.

Simon Pavel T. Miranda, 28, works as a reservations officer for a leading airline.

Coach

Caleb Donne E. Coniate

MY FATHER DOES NOT TALK ABOUT MAKING PLAYS OR delivering a knockout punch, but he was, is and will always be a coach. He does not have a single white strand on his head even though he is now 56, but he is still making crucial moments in people's lives a bit easier, like he has been doing since he became a pastor 28 years ago.

When he was younger and I had more time for storytelling, my father loved to tell me and my brother Windol stories he made up in his mind. There were stories about me helping people out of trouble, about me doing espionage or about me becoming so successful that the whole world was kissing my feet. Every story was so well crafted that soon you realize he got them from reading so many Ludlum novels lent to him by his friends Erma and Bill. Every tale had a story line that had something to do with intense sacrifice and discipline resulting in lasting rewards and success. Little did I know that he was using those stories to condition my mind to the reality of life: that if you want to be champion, you have to muster everything that you have and get ready for that moment when you get the chance to climb the tall mountain of challenges, from the bottom to the top. To this day, he constantly reminds me of the options I have: "Finish your MA degree" or "Pay your life insurance premium" or "Lose some weight because you've gotten unpleasantly fat."

Being a pastor, father has to deal with people and is always under their scrutiny. There are three kinds of comments he always has to face: positive remarks concerning his ministry, negative remarks concerning his ministry, and really nasty remarks about his ministry.

But this coach is tough. He never walks away from a fight, nodding his head in frustration and disappointment, he stays to give his opponents a chance to realize they need his supervision and spiritual guidance so they'll know how to handle their own personal struggles that could lead to hatred.

My father never fails to reward good deeds. The first time I won top honors in my grade school class, he bought me a 14-inch TV set—a really big deal for poor people like us. The next year I landed on the same spot, he bought me a basketball and built a makeshift goal in our backyard. Everything he labeled "My eldest's… from me" were his rewards for my diligence and for meeting goals.

I'm sure my father has lots of frustrations. His good friends know there have been many times when he couldn't deliver what was expected of him. But each time it happened they learned to admire him even more because every time his weaknesses showed, he made his strengths and prayers shine brighter so that those who looked up to him felt blessed and inspired.

If my father were a basketball or boxing coach, I'm sure he would be doing a good, if not perfect, job. He is that good as a coach on life and living.

Caleb Donne E. Coniate, 27, is a member of the faculty of Trinity University of Asia.

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Why a strong typhoon is better

A STRONG TYPHOON IS BETTER than cell phone service providers because wherever it may go, it always has a signal.

A strong typhoon is better than Maynilad Water Services Inc. because it brings uninterrupted supply of water.

A strong typhoon is better than the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority because it can dismantle billboards faster.

A strong typhoon is better than Joseph Estrada because it can travel anywhere even without a court order.

A strong typhoon is better than the Abu Sayyaf or the New People's Army because even if it kills people, neither the United States nor the European Union includes it in its terror list.

A strong typhoon is better than most candidates' well-budgeted election campaigns because it can always result in a landslide.

A strong typhoon is better than the First Gentleman because you can curse the heavy rains, the destructive winds, or the devastating floods and you don't get sued for libel.

A strong typhoon is better than the country's political opposition because of its strength and power.

A strong typhoon is better than President Macapagal-Arroyo because it doesn't lose its cool.

A strong typhoon is better than luxury cars because it could enter the Philippine area of responsibility freely without having to worry about the massive extortion and bribing activities at the Bureau of Customs.

—LOI REYES LANDICHO,
9/F Jacinta Bldg II,
Edsa, Guadalupe, Makati City

Critic only after integrity and quality of textbooks

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO REACT TO some of the things said in the article "Is DepEd critic barking up the wrong tree?" (INQUIRER, 8/20/07)

Projecting themselves as poor, innocent victims of "injustice," the authors I've criticized portray me now as a reckless destroyer of their honor and reputation. Let the people be forewarned.

In the first place, these authors' names are displayed prominently on the cover of each and every book they write. They expect us to respect them.

Unaware that the contents of the defective textbooks are mostly crap, pupils and their parents, teachers and the general public tend to look up to the authors, venerating and idolizing them. Yet bad writers write bad books, and that isn't good at all.

There is absolutely nothing wrong with what I'm doing. I'm merely showing what these most-revered and highly respected writers really are. The first requisite of a good writer is that he must know how to write. And what is considered good writing? It is one that promotes knowledge, skills and values by means of instructions and teachings which are true, good and correct. If a writer does not have proficiency in English, he shouldn't be writing textbooks in English. It's as simple as that.

While it is fair to say that anonymous Department of Education evaluators should also be blamed, it cannot be denied that the original sin had been committed by the writers themselves. Editors and reviewers are expected to edit only minor errors, and not to correct and rewrite an entirely trashy book. The author who doesn't know how to write, the reviewer who doesn't know how to correct and the DepEd top brass who cannot make the two render the work they were paid to do—these three share the guilt in equal measure.

I am definitely not "in the pay of perennial losers in DepEd biddings." My 11-year track record speaks for itself. I have never promoted the interests of any publisher, having in fact exposed the defective products of practically all of the major textbook publishers in the country. I am only after the integrity and the quality of the content of the textbooks our children are using, and for this, I will not only bark but bite like a dog from hell.

Two articles relevant to this issue have been published in the International Herald Tribune (USA) and the Straits Times (Singapore). I've just been interviewed by the German Press Agency. Foreigners seem to be more concerned about the proliferation of error-riddled textbooks in the entire Philippine educational system. The authors, publishers and the DepEd have all kept absolutely mum about the whole thing, as if nothing has happened at all.

—ANTONIO CALIPJO GO,
academic supervisor,
Marian School of Quezon City,
199 Sauyo Road, Novaliches, QC

Trillanes' incomprehensible victory: Guts or trash talk?

THIS REFERS TO THE LETTER titled "Senator Trillanes is still presumed innocent." (INQUIRER, 8/11/07) The whole world saw what Antonio Trillanes IV did when he and his band of mutineers held the Oakwood hotel and its employees hostage to advance their "convictions." "Guts," the writer says.

Trillanes was definitely not thinking straight when he launched his campaign of terror. Despite the noblest of intentions, his actions had consequences that so adversely affected the economy and moved progress some years back.

Trillanes is a military man. He has no business talking the talk of civilians. How he won as senator is so beyond comprehension. Do the Filipino voters select their leaders on the basis of good looks and trash talk?

—ARPEE LAZARO,
arpeelazaro@gmail.com

Enough of GSIS' explanations

I AM WRITING IN ANGER AND exasperation. I am the son of Silvino Casillan, a retired government engineer and GSIS pensioner who has not received his pension for four months now. In each of those months, he needed his monthly pension to pay for his medicines. He needs it most desperately now that he is confined in the ICU of a private hospital for pneumonia treatment.

I am certain that I am among the legion complaining against the inefficiency of the Government Service (or non-service) Insurance System and that my father is one of the countless pensioners suffering from the GSIS' failure to remit their much-needed pension.

No, my father is not just suffering. He's dying in the hospital. And the amount due him from the GSIS (which he richly deserves after 40 years of uninterrupted government service) has not yet been remitted despite his children's continuing follow-up efforts.

The GSIS personnel here in Naga City appear powerless to grant our request to expedite the release of the long delayed monthly pensions, and they could only pass the buck to their national office. They cannot even give us hope that the pension will come soon.

Yet, pension remittance is supposed to be a routine GSIS function and service. It is a monumental shame for a social security service of the government to habitually fail in doing this job over long periods. And to think that the GSIS employees are among the most highly paid government employees.

Really in the GSIS, ineptitude is the name of the game. Efficiency, whenever we see a flash of it, comes as a surprise.

The GSIS officials should not give us complicated explanations for a very simple, routine service. They should just deliver it. And we will be grateful.

—ELMER S. CASILLAN,
elmer_casillan@yahoo.com

Action vs 'additional taxi fare' urged

IT IS SO DISAPPOINTING THAT some cab drivers ask for additional fare—that is, apart from and on top of the fare indicated in the taxi meter.

To justify the additional charge, they usually would reason out that your destination is far, the traffic is heavy, it's raining, the gas is expensive, they have to pay a terminal fee, or they don't have change. This practice should not be tolerated.

What's the use of the taxi meter if it isn't followed? Not all passengers can afford to give tips.

I hope the concerned government agencies and authorities will institute the proper measures to thwart this practice.

—CELIA DE JESUS,
blueceleven@yahoo.com

Was editorial on textbook errors ethical?

IS IT PROPER OR ETHICAL FOR the INQUIRER to come out with several positive editorials about Antonio Calipjo Go, even though he has been publishing in the newspaper expensive full-page and half-page advertisements about allegedly erroneous textbooks?

Has the INQUIRER checked whether or not the "errors" exist in the actual textbooks?

In July 2005, Go filed with the National Book Development Board (NBDB) a formal complaint about five allegedly erroneous elementary Science textbooks in the private school system. The NBDB sent the books to a Center of Excellence in Science in one of the country's top four universities. After several weeks, the center's experts submitted a detailed report showing that, while the books needed some minor improvements, they were generally of good quality.

In October 2005, the NBDB informed Go of the findings of the center, but he angrily rejected them and insisted that the books were of poor quality. But even before the findings could be released, he denounced the authors and publisher in one of his costly ads. Their names have been tarnished; their belated consolation and vindication came from an independent panel of real experts.

The authors and publishers, though, would not be so stupid as to spend so much for an ad to let their vindication be known. Or does the INQUIRER just want to start a "battle of ads"?

Does the INQUIRER think that a sensational shame campaign that subjects authors, publishers, academic institutions and government agencies to expensive media attacks without due process will lead to long-term textbook improvement?

Does the INQUIRER believe that somebody like Go, who refuses to disclose his specific expertise, has a monopoly of the zeal and competence for textbook reform?

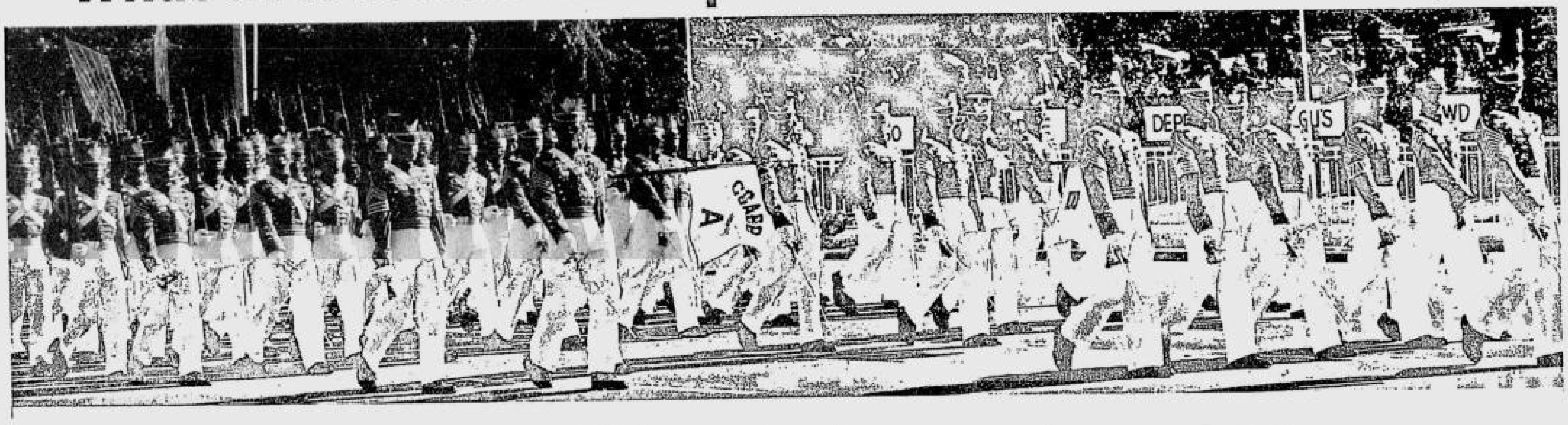
—DENNIS T. GONZALEZ, Ph.D.,
chair, National Book
Development Board,
A. Ma. Regidor St.,
UP Diliman, Quezon City

Does the chair of the National Book Development Board believe ignoring Antonio Calipjo Go's "expensive media attacks" improves the quality of those textbooks? The all-important issue is whether the things being passed off as facts to schoolchildren are correct and whether they are learning the right things. For instance, is it necessary for a child to know what a "titatita" does?—**Ed.**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

What does it take for Filipinos to march the same way?



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Puerto Princesa rejects mining projects

By Redempto Anda
Puerto Princesa City

THE ONGOING NICKEL ORE rush in southern Palawan may have attracted all sorts of mining investors big and small, dubious and legit.

But the roads leading to the reddish brown soil that Palawan's landscape is famous for just ended at the entrance to Puerto Princesa City, the province's capital and host to wide areas of high grade nickel ore.

On Aug. 21, Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn declared that he will not approve any of the pending mining applications in the city at least during the remainder of his three-year term.

At the same time, he called for the filing of a resolution in the city council that will declare a 25-year moratorium on mining in Puerto Princesa City.

"If the mining companies can show me a place with intact forest cover and where people have become wealthy and healthy after a massive mining operation, I might change my mind," Hagedorn told the INQUIRER.

INSTEAD of jumping into the southern Palawan bandwagon where all municipalities embraced mining with open arms, Puerto Princesa City will boost tourism and agriculture. This is a nickel ore mining site in Narra, Palawan that was stripped of its Environmental Clearance Certificate by the DENR for over-extraction. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/LORY TAN/WWF

Hagedorn was reacting to questions on how the city government will respond to reported offers for assistance of major mining companies eyeing to put up nickel ore mining operations in Puerto Princesa City.

"The ugly sight of the denuded forests of Sta. Lourdes and the mercury mine tailings that were dumped along Honda Bay only strengthens my resolve to oppose mining operations here in Puerto Princesa," he added.

Hagedorn explained that the recent conversion of Puerto Princesa City into a highly urbanized charter city allowed it to be administratively independent of the provincial government and gave them the power to deny with finality all small-scale permit applications previously approved by the Provincial Mining and Regulatory Board (PMRB).

Small-scale mining permits are awarded by the PMRB.

In the case of Palawan, it is being utilized by big mining companies to start up large-scale mining operations, ostensibly because it is easier to acquire compared to large-scale permits given by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Hagedorn's announcement effectively turned down reported overtures from several major mining companies, including Atlas Consolidated Nickel Mining Corp., whose subsidiary, Berong Nickel Mining Corp., is eyeing to set up operations near Ulugan Bay overlooking the St. Paul's Subterranean River National Park.

Nickel deposits are located on the western coast of the city.

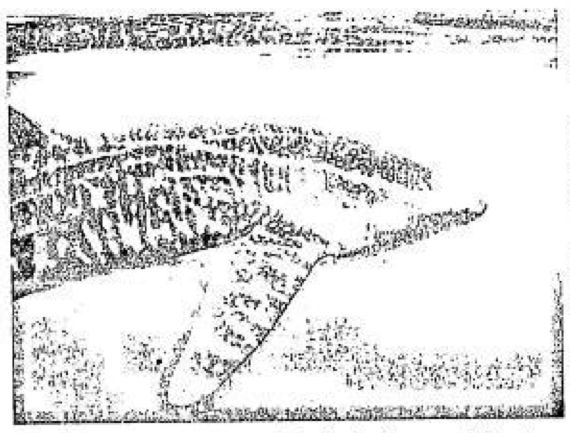
Individuals have also been granted by the PMRB mining claims over nickel areas around Barangays Napsan and Bacungan.

Tourism and agriculture

Instead of jumping into the southern Palawan bandwagon where all municipalities embraced mining investors with open arms, Hagedorn said they have mapped out "a strategic plan to boost our tourism and agriculture sectors."

"In line with our sustainable development vision, we can only promote two major industries—tourism and agriculture. That is why we are allocating more funds to enhance our tourism program," Hagedorn said.

City tourism officer Melinda San Juan Mohammad said they were investing on a plan designed with the assistance of the Asian Institute of Management to boost the city's tourism receipts by at least 30 percent over the next three years "as a short term goal."



THE REPORTED sightings of whale sharks around Puerto Princesa Bay have increased in frequency, prompting local tourism officials and conservationists to develop a tourist attraction program around it. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/DUNCAN MURRELL

"Our target is to develop ecotourism as a major economic activity. We aim to increase tourism receipts by at least 30 percent and yet maintain a low volume of tourist traffic," Mohammad said.

From an annual tourist arrival average of 150,000, Mohammad said they were conducting promotional activities to attract 650,000 tourists in the next three years.

He explained that their plan will be boosted by the ongoing upgrading of the Puerto Princesa City Airport into a full-fledged international airport.

Mohammad also noted the potential of newly discovered attractions in the city, including whale shark and dolphin-watching tours.

"Our whale sharks and dolphins are getting very good media attention. We expect this attraction to really get lots of visitors," she added.

City agriculturist Melissa Macasaet also said their development plans have focused on increasing the current productivity of the sector and the promotion of export crops such as cacao and cashew.

"Our main goal is to address poverty and reduce its incidence," Macasaet said.

She said they were also promoting the planting of oil palm in open areas of Puerto Princesa City to popularize the industry.

Plan to declare Palawan mountain a protected area faces setback

PLANS TO DECLARE AS A PROTECTED AREA THE biodiversity-rich forest enclave of Mt. Mantalingahan in southern Palawan faced setbacks after village heads of the municipality of Brooke's Point, 192 kilometers south of the capital city of Puerto Princesa, passed resolutions withdrawing support to the move, allegedly upon instigation of mining companies.

Almost all of the 13 barangay captains of Brooke's Point have signed two resolutions of withdrawal to the protected area development project, according to Efren Balmonte, barangay captain of Ipilan during a radio program sponsored by the mining companies operating in Palawan.

Balmonte said they realized that the project would result to the displacement of communities living around the proposed park.

"We learned that they will fence the area and evict the people there," he said.

When they endorsed the project last year they were not told what would happen to the affected villagers, he added.

The plan to delineate 120,457 hectares of mostly old growth forests around Mt. Mantalingahan is a joint effort of the five municipalities around the mountain range with technical support from Conservation International Philippines (CI).

Recently, CI announced the discovery of at least two new species—an orchid and a mountain shrew—during a five-week biological survey of the upper areas of Mantalingahan.

Brooke's Point Vice Mayor Jean Feliciano told the INQUIRER that the municipal council has yet to receive the resolution.

"We will discuss that in the council. But insofar as the commitment of Brooke's Point is concerned, we cannot just withdraw from it simply because of the signatures of the barangay captains," Feliciano said.

Support resolution

The Southern Palawan Planning Council, a body composed of all five municipalities covering Mt. Mantalingahan, meanwhile said that it had received endorsements to the protected area project from the irrigators' association.

In separate resolutions, the Brooke's Point Rural Waterworks and Sanitation Inc. and the Pangobilian Multi-Purpose Cooperative expressed support to the project, saying this will ensure the continued source of water for their farmlands.

"About 59,000 people comprising 11,800 households of Brooke's Point are entirely dependent on Mt. Mantalingahan. We need to protect it," the resolution said.

Feliciano alleged that mining companies, who have business interests around Mt. Mantalingahan, are involved in a "disinformation campaign" to block its declaration as a protected area.

"I know for a fact that individuals identified with the mining companies are doing the rounds of the barangays to precisely ask them to oppose the project," Feliciano said.

One of the mining companies in the preliminary stage of conducting nickel mining operations in Brooke's Point, however, denied any hand in the barangay captains' resolution.

"We haven't expressed any opposition to that project. We are not directly affected by that. We already have our MPSA (mineral production sharing agreement) and we've already passed that stage of 'permitting,'" Rufo Cabanlig, vice president for mining operations of MacroAsia Corp., said.

MacroAsia is planning to operate a 25-year concession for nickel ore in Brooke's Point.

No endorsement

Feliciano claimed MacroAsia got its MPSA from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources "under spurious circumstances."

She alleged that the endorsement of Brooke's Point was "railroaded."

"They passed the resolution on first reading. The council didn't even go through public hearings. They just approved the endorsement immediately after the resolution was filed," Feliciano said.

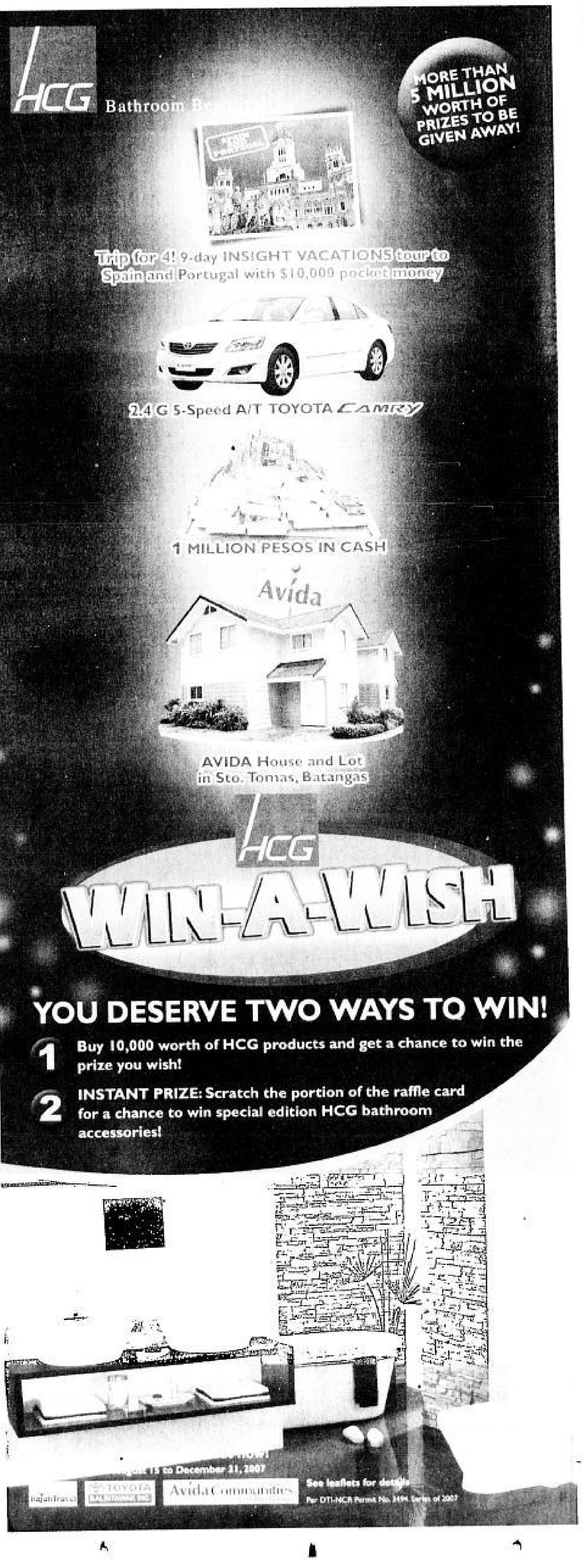
When the previous council deliberated on the resolution for MacroAsia, the sponsor called for an immediate voting on the issue, which resulted to a 5-5 split, that was broken by the presiding officer, then Vice Mayor Danilo Chan, in favor of the company, she explained.

"Vice Mayor Chan was not even authorized to preside over that meeting because he was acting mayor when it happened," Feliciano said.

Worse, Feliciano added, the minutes of the council's deliberation on the MacroAsia mining project has been missing.

MacroAsia said it followed "proper procedures" in securing its permit from the DENR, including the endorsement of the municipality, as a condition to the granting of a final permit.

Redempto Anda



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Cops detonate bomb left in bus seat

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Police in Pagadian City detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) found aboard a Rural Transit bus, three minutes before it was set to explode Tuesday evening.

The discovery of the bomb came a few hours after an explosion rocked this city and injured 14 people.

The bus came from this city and was stopping in Pagadian on its way to Cagayan de Oro, according to Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, Western Mindanao police chief, said.

He said passengers had notified a bus inspector about an unclaimed baggage around 11:57 p.m.

Caringal said policemen at the terminal took no chances and immediately retrieved the baggage.

He said they immediately "disrupted" it in a secluded area and later found that it contained an IED fitted with a timer.

"It was set to explode at midnight," he said.

Caringal said police could not say if the explosion here and the bomb found aboard the bus were planted by the same group.

In Tacurong City in Sultan Kudarat province, police authorities are hunting down two suspected local members of the Jemaah Islamiyah, who were allegedly behind Friday last week's foiled bomb attacks there.

THE LESSONS of the Yellow Bus Line bombings are still fresh in the memories of authorities as they deal with continuing threats from extortionists with links to terrorist groups.
JEOFFREY MAITEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Supt. Joel Limson, Tacurong City police chief, said one of those being hunted down is Tongan Fatima, a foreign-trained bomb expert working for the JI.

Fatima's identity and that of the other suspect, a certain Toliah, was provided by Badrudin Tapid, who was caught inside the public market with explosives on Friday.

Chief Supt. Felizardo Serapio, Central Mindanao police chief, said Tapid told police investigators that he was invited by Toliah in early August to a meeting in Cotabato City, during which, he was commissioned to carry out bomb attacks in Tacurong and nearby areas for a fee.

Shortly before he was arrested, Tapid said he received money from Toliah in Buluan, Maguindanao.

He was also asked to bring the three improvised explosive devices, which authorities would later seize, to Tacurong City.

Tacurong is one of Central Mindanao areas being tightly watched by police authorities after two explosions rocked the city this year.

The Yellow Bus Lines earlier came under attack from extortionists that authorities said had links with the JI.

But increased security had foiled future attacks, according to police, and the Al Khobar Gang, which was tagged as the group responsible for the bombings at the Yellow Bus Lines, had turned to other targets. *Julie S. Alipala and Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

Iggy Arroyo says solons want DAR abolished

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo Jr. said it was not true that most congressmen favor the extension of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Arroyo, who represents the province's fifth district, said that on the contrary, some of the congressmen he has talked to were for the abolition of the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman said Sunday that his department had began a lobby in Congress for the extension of the CARP for another 10 years and it had the support of most of the legislators, except in Western Visayas.

Arroyo, however, said many of the congressmen were unhappy with the way CARP has been implemented, and there were some who believed the DAR should be abolished.

Among the legislators not happy with the DAR were those from the Ilocos bloc, he said, where there are also vast agricultural areas.

Contrary to the claim of Pangandaman on the position of most congressmen on CARP, the picture in the House is different, he said.

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Scam seen in ₱18-M Zambales relocation plan

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Zambales government's task force monitoring the social commitments of a Korean shipbuilder has reported uncovering signs of corruption in the P18-million relocation program that the company has funded.

Mayor Jeffrey Khonghun of Subic, Zambales, supervised the program for some 400 families displaced by the shipyard project of the Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Co. Ltd. in the town, according to the task force.

Gov. Amor Deloso on Monday told the INQUIRER that Task Force Hanjin, chaired by former Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain II, has found "numerous irregularities" in the relocation project in Barangay Agusuhin.

Hanjin general manager Jong Yu Pyeong did not answer the INQUIRER's call and text message on Monday inquiring about the alleged anomalies.

The task force reported the absence of bidding for the construction of public facilities, the collapse of two school buildings, large cracks on the walkways and walls of several classrooms, unstable footbridge, non-construction of water and drainage systems and road network, and non issuance of land titles to settlers.

Deloso said he confirmed the task force's findings during a check at the site and consultation with residents on Wednesday.

He said the project might have gone wrong because "local government officials were in cahoots with erring contractors."

A copy of the purchase order by Hanjin to the North Bound Hardware and General Merchandise showed the company bought P18.28 million worth of supplies for 33 facilities.

Khonghun received a copy of the purchase order on May 16, 2006, the same document showed.

Based on the order, Hanjin intended the supplies for five rooms as teachers' quarters, 18 classrooms and a library, three toilets and a lavatory, three elevated water tanks, two flagpoles, two school stages and a plaza stage, two chapels, a church, three shallow well hand pumps, a day care center, a school gate and marker, a health center, a playground and a basketball court.

But Khonghun said he had "no direct hand" in the project. He said it was Hanjin that chose the supplier for the project.

Khonghun said he recommended the contractors when Hanjin officials inquired which were qualified.

"*Ako po ang namili* (I chose them)," he said in a phone interview. "I initiated the relocation project because even while the settlers were compensated for the damages when their houses were demolished, they would have no public utilities at the site. The municipal government also paid for the land survey."

Hanjin paid damages of between P20,000 and P500,000 to the families, Lacbain said.

Khonghun said no public bidding and audit were held because the contract was between a private company, Hanjin, and private contractors.

"They are people of Governor Deloso," Khonghun added, referring to the contractors.

Lacbain said there were three contractors, one of whom reported receiving only P3 million.

But Deloso said: "Even if they were my people, it does not matter. I was not yet governor then."

"The point is Mayor Khonghun, the supplier and the contractors should explain how they spent the money and why the structures are damaged or missing. Those funds were intended for public facilities," Deloso said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Power plant owners to pay unpaid taxes

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—THE new power firm that took over the operations of the coal-fired power plant in Sual town has promised to settle its financial obligations to the provincial government.

A news release from the provincial information office here said that Federico Puno, president and chief executive officer of Team Energy Corp., had told Gov. Amado Espino Jr. in a meeting that he wanted to "start it right and clear" as the new plant manager.

Accumulated debt

Team Energy Corp., a consortium of the Tokyo Electric and Power Co. and Marubeni Corp., had bought Mirant's interests in major power assets in Luzon in June.

The provincial board had earlier authorized Espino to enter into a settlement agreement with the National Power Corp., which had not paid real property taxes on the plant's equipment and machineries since last year. Its debts have ballooned to P179 million, including penalties and surcharges.

Vicious cycle

During the meeting, Puno said he and Napocor officials had agreed to pay the principal of the financial obligation amounting to P142 million. The payment of penalties and surcharges, which were waived by then Gov. (now Representative) Victor Agbayani, was deferred.

Board Member Tyrone Agabas, however, told Team Energy that condoning a penalty was not favorable to the province and would only result in a "vicious cycle of delinquencies."

"We should put an end to deliberate delinquencies in taxes," Agabas said.

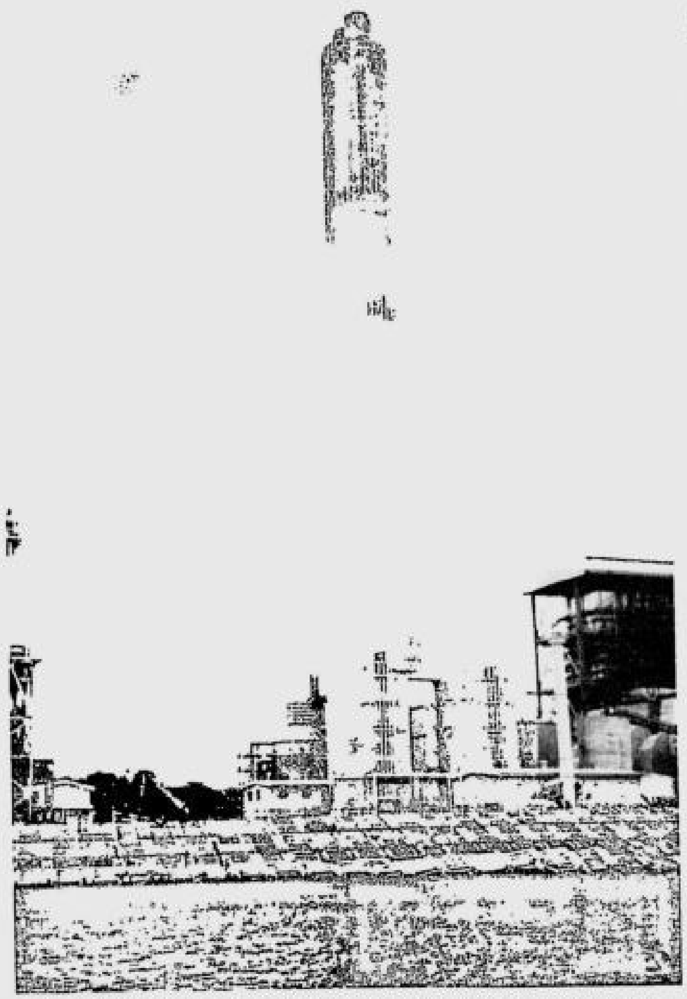
No copy cat

Espino had asked Team Energy officials to clear the matter first with the Napocor, particularly with respect to the penalties and surcharges amounting to P37 million.

He said it was improper for him to sign a memorandum of agreement, which was just "a copy of the previous one."

Both parties agreed that a separate MOA should be prepared—one for the payment of the principal obligation and another for the penalties and surcharges.

Puno also agreed with Provincial Administrator Rafael Baraan's suggestion that paying taxes on time should also be stipulated in the MOA and that any subsequent delinquent payment should have penalties and surcharges. *Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



THE SMOKESTACK of the Sual Power Plant in Pangasinan. The new plant owners wanted to "start clear and right" in their relationship with the provincial government of Pangasinan which was trying to collect at least P179 million in unpaid taxes. INQUIRER PHOTO

ROUNDUP

Quake hits Mindanao again

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A mild tremor rocked anew several areas of western and central Mindanao yesterday after Tuesday's magnitude 4 quake that hit the same areas.

Eduardo Lauron, of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) here, said the second quake, which measured a magnitude of 4.9 at the epicenter, struck at 3:07 a.m. yesterday. It measured Intensity 2 in this city and in Pagadian.

No damage was reported from the quake, which he described as tectonic.

On Monday, a 6.6 quake also shook many areas in Southern Mindanao and some areas of the Caraga Region. *Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Pangasinan still FMD-free

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Pangasinan's livestock industry has remained free from the foot and mouth disease for four years now.

Dr. Eric Jose Perez, officer in charge of the provincial veterinarian's office, said this was because the provincial government has conducted precautionary measures like massive vaccination of hogs and cattle, as well as distribution of disinfectant called "soda ash" to slaughterhouses, livestock markets and to private livestock owners.

He said province-wide surveillance and installation of animal quarantine and checkpoints were also undertaken to prevent the movement of infected animals.

FMD, which usually occurs during the rainy season, is an acute, highly communicable viral disease that infects cows, carabaos, goats and hogs. *Gabriel Cardiñoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Peace body mandate expiring

COTABATO CITY—The mandate of the Malaysian-dominated International Monitoring Team (IMT), the body created to oversee the implementation of the ceasefire agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), expires in September.

Maj. Gen. Ismael Ahmad Khan, of the Malaysian Army, who heads the IMT-3, said on Friday it would be up to the Philippine government and the MILF to decide whether or not to extend the IMT's mandate.

"We are hoping that they (panelists) will meet as quickly as possible and give their recommendations," Khan said.

The presence of the IMT had been proven effective in preventing the escalation of violence between soldiers and MILF rebels in the past. These included the Maguindanao skirmishes in 2006.

Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

SWAT teams organized

DIGOS CITY—The city police organized its special weapons and assault team (SWAT) amid increasing security threats, including those from terror groups.

Mayor Arsenio Latasa ordered the purchase of 10 "high-powered and high-tech weapons," which he said could be used by the SWAT in helping maintain peace and order in the city.

Chief Insp. Cesar Cabuhat, city police chief, said the idea of organizing a special team of police officers was prompted by the fact that the city "is fast developing and becoming prone to various forms of lawlessness."

Aside from firearms for the SWAT, Latasa also ordered the purchase of computers, office supplies, ammunition, service vehicles and motorcycles for distribution to police offices here.

Eldie Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao

Vintage bombs found

ILIGAN CITY—Police and military bomb experts recovered at least 10 World War II vintage bombs here on Tuesday, Santos Garcia, the police's K-9 unit team leader, said.

Garcia said two of the vintage bombs were recovered from the Treasure Steel Corp. (formerly billet shop of the National Steel Corp.) in Sitio Nunucan in Barangay Suarez while eight others were taken from a junk shop in Barangay Tominobo.

Garcia said the management of Treasure Steel Corp. and the junk shop owner told police that the bombs were sold to them as junk.

Bomb experts warned that tinkering with vintage bombs could be dangerous.

Garcia said a 60-millimeter mortar shell exploded inside the NSC melting bucket a few years ago. *Richel Umel, Inquirer Mindanao*

High rice yield traced to organic fertilizers

BUTUAN CITY—THE USE OF organic fertilizers among farmers has been credited for the high rice production in Northern Mindanao and Caraga Region.

Luis Guillen, president of the Summa Biotechnologies Corp. based here, said there was a 20 percent surge in rice output in Northern Mindanao due to farmer's use of a locally-produced organic and environment-friendly fertilizer.

"The use of bio-organic inoculant fertilizer has increased palay yield by 20 percent," Guillen said in a statement.

The fertilizer, known as Nitro-Fix, is made of nitrogen-fixing bacteria developed by researchers at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños.

Rice studies showed that once these bacteria from organic matters capture the nitrogen gas in the atmosphere, it would convert into a usable form needed to sustain the nitrogen requirements of rice, corn, vegetables, and other crops.

Guillen said the palay plants are healthier, and produce impressive results such as broader and greener leaves, extensive root system and sturdier stalks.

Also, the plants are more resistant to pests and diseases than those being applied with chemical-based nitrogen fertilizers, which he claimed have proven to be detrimental to soil fertility and contributes greatly to declining farm productivity.

According to Guillen, the successful use of bio-organic fertilizers could serve as a solution to the country's chronic rice shortage, if replicated in all the other regions in Mindanao, with its ideal rice-growing conditions and functional irrigation systems.

With the long dry spell in Luzon, followed by the recent massive flooding, Mindanao could yet prove to be the country's solution to a looming grains shortage, he said.

The cost-cutting and yield-increasing benefits of bio-organic fertilizer inputs prompted Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap to subsidize Nitro-fix.

Recently, Yap ordered the Department of Agriculture in the Caraga Region, headed by acting director Ricardo Regis, to implement a distribution program of the organic fertilizers to farmer-beneficiaries.

For the current cropping period, the DA in Northern Mindanao and the Caraga Region, under the Hunger Mitigation Project, have distributed Nitro-Fix to farmers in the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Norte and Bukidnon covering some 20,900 hectares of irrigated rice lands.

Taking a cue from Yap, Butuan Mayor Democrito Plaza also implemented the Nitro-Fix distribution program for farmers working on a total 4,000 hectares of rice lands in the city. *Franklin A. Caliguid, Inquirer Mindanao*

Kennon closed to PUVs

BAGUIO CITY—THE DEPARTment of Transportation and Communications has again closed the 41.2-km Kennon Road to all public utility vehicles. But this time, the closure order, which will be imposed on Sept. 1, is aimed at reducing pollution in the area.

Lawyer Federico Mandapat Jr., DOTC Cordillera director, said vehicles using the zigzag road use up more fuel because of the uphill climb and this releases more pollutants.

A former city councilor, Mandapat said he is sensitive to air pollution studies that have detected high degrees of pollution here.

He said commuter buses, passenger jeeps or vans that have used Kennon Road because of its shorter route must now take Marcos Highway.

The DOTC has not interfered with the vehicles' franchises by fixing their routes to the city "because these refer only to [fixed destinations] that lead to Baguio," he said. "It does not say they should travel through Kennon Road," he added.

Robert Pocais, DOTC Cordillera chief of operations, said the ban's primary issue is still Kennon Road's general instability.

The road had to be closed when tropical typhoons "Chedeng" and "Dodong" hit Northern Luzon last week, to allow public works crews to remove minor landslides there.

The road has been the most traveled route to Baguio for decades because it offers motorists a scenic view of the pine forested mountains as they drive closer to the city.

But the road's engineering instability, which was uncovered following the July 16, 1990 earthquake, had almost caused its permanent shutdown.

Elsewhere in the Cordillera, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in the Cordillera was accused of technical malversation for allegedly diverting P20 million intended for the repair of a national road that connected Tublay and Kapangan towns.

Board member Johnny Uy said the DPWH's decision to rehabilitate an alternate route in Barangay Cuba in Kapangan, instead of the stretch between Acop, Tublay and Lomon, also in Kapangan, was also in defiance of President Macapagal-Arroyo's wishes to concrete the road.

The fund issue fueled a debate among board members in Tuesday's session of the provincial board here as DPWH representatives protested the board's suggestions of an irregularity concerning the fund's use.

Alex Castañeda, DPWH district head, said the fund was specifically allocated for a portion of the national road in Barangay Cuba based on a program of works that the DPWH earlier approved. *Vincent Cabreza and Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

THE KENNON Road is a scenic, but often dangerous, route to Baguio City. INQUIRER PHOTO

Palace seeks P1.2-trillion '08 budget

By Christian V. Esguerra

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY TRANSMITTED TO THE HOUSE OF Representatives what it called a balanced budget for next year—a P1.227-trillion allocation hinged on the prospect of solid revenue collection and continued fiscal order.

Speaker Jose de Venecia promised to have the budget ready for the Senate's approval and President Macapagal-Arroyo's signature by December.

"We need to avoid incidents in the past of a reenacted budget, which had deterred the development of the country in the sense that budgets had to stay in previous year levels," he said during the formal turnover of the budget.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, newly elected chair of the powerful committee on appropriations, said the committee would "examine with particular concern" the huge amounts allocated for debt service and the internal revenue allotment (IRA) for local government units.

Lagman, who will abdicate the committee chairmanship in favor of Quirino Rep. Junie Cua after the first half of the 14th Congress, said the government "must observe selective, automatic appropriation in order not to repay fraudulent, illegitimate and useless loan obligations."

Under the 2008 budget proposal, debt payments will eat up 24 percent of the government coffers. Though down from 28 percent in the current budget, the allocation would still amount to at least P295 billion.

No borrowed peso

Lagman also took issue on the supposed inequality in the distribution of IRA to local government units. He said poorer cities or towns in the provinces needed more financial assistance from the national government compared with "LGU giants in metropolitan centers."

"This funding inequity has to be stopped and resolved with strong political will," he said.

At yesterday's transmittal rites, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said the budget proposal would "not be propped up by a single borrowed peso." Malacañang was apparently foreseeing better revenue collection enough to help promote self-sufficiency.

"The 2008 budget is premised on revenues of P1.236 trillion, P1.108 billion in tax revenues, and P127 billion in non-tax revenues," he said in a statement.

A huge chunk of the revenues was expected to come from the Bureau of Customs (P254 billion) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (P885 million), he said.

Andaya said the almost weekly command conferences held lately by Ms Arroyo at the government's revenue-collection agencies should give them a "clear message ... to do their job."

Besides close monitoring of these agencies, the President also launched a renewed crackdown on big-time smugglers, highlighted by the destruction of luxury vehicles recently slipped into the country.

'Era of balanced budget'

Andaya said the P1.227-trillion budget was also based on a gross domestic product growth of 6.1 to 6.8 percent, an inflation rate of between 3 and 4 percent, and a foreign exchange forecast of P46 to P48 for every dollar.

"We are taking a bold step toward an era of balanced budgets," he said. "Just two years ago, the budget deficit hit P47 billion. By the end of next year, or a thousand days after we started putting our fiscal house in order, the deficit will be gone."

Lagman said the appropriations committee will observe "reasonable restraint," but was prepared to trim or realign outlays in the proposed 2008 national budget.

The proposed budget allocated P201.9 billion in capital outlays, up by P31 billion from the current budget. Most of the amount would go to infrastructure, which stood to be financed by P113 billion or a 22.5-percent increase.

The proposal also allocated P30 billion to cover the salary increase of government employees.

12 Magdalo officers guilty, are dismissed

A MILITARY COURT YESTERDAY DISMISSED 12 junior military officers who led the failed Oakwood mutiny in July 2003 after they were found guilty of conduct unbecoming an officer.

The court's presiding officer, Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Legaspi, announced the dishonorable discharges and said the officers—six captains and six lieutenants—brought "dishonor to the noble profession of arms" and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The verdict however is still subject to review by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., and final approval by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The 12 officers—led by Army Capt. Gerardo Gambala, valedictorian of the 1995 class of the elite Philippine Military Academy—are among the 29 junior officers said to be the "core group" of the Magdalo Group that led the failed coup. They are facing a separate charge of coup d'etat in a civilian court.

The officers were among more than 300 soldiers from elite special forces units who occupied the ritzy Oakwood Premiere apartments and an adjacent shopping mall in Makati financial district and rigged the area with bombs on July 27, 2003. They demanded that Ms Arroyo and other officials resign for alleged corruption, but gave up without a shot fired after a 19-hour standoff.

Gambala and the 11 others pleaded guilty to conduct unbecoming of an officer and a gentleman in a plea bargain to escape a lengthy jail term for mutiny during the last hearing held last July 10. The offense carries a penalty of dishonorable discharge from the service.

One of the member of 29 core group is former Navy Lt. Senior Grade and now Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV who has not entered any plea or any plea agreement with military prosecutors.

Aside from Gambala, also ordered to be dishonorably discharge from the service were Army Captains Milo Maestrocampo, Albert Baloloy, Alvin Ebreo, Lawrence Somera, and John Andres, and First Lieutenants Rex Bolo, Von Rio Tayab, Audie Tocloy, Cleo Donga-as, Florentino Somera, and Brian Yasay.

Still in custody

Despite their dismissal, they will remain under the custody of the military as they face their case before the Makati regional trial court, according to Esperon.

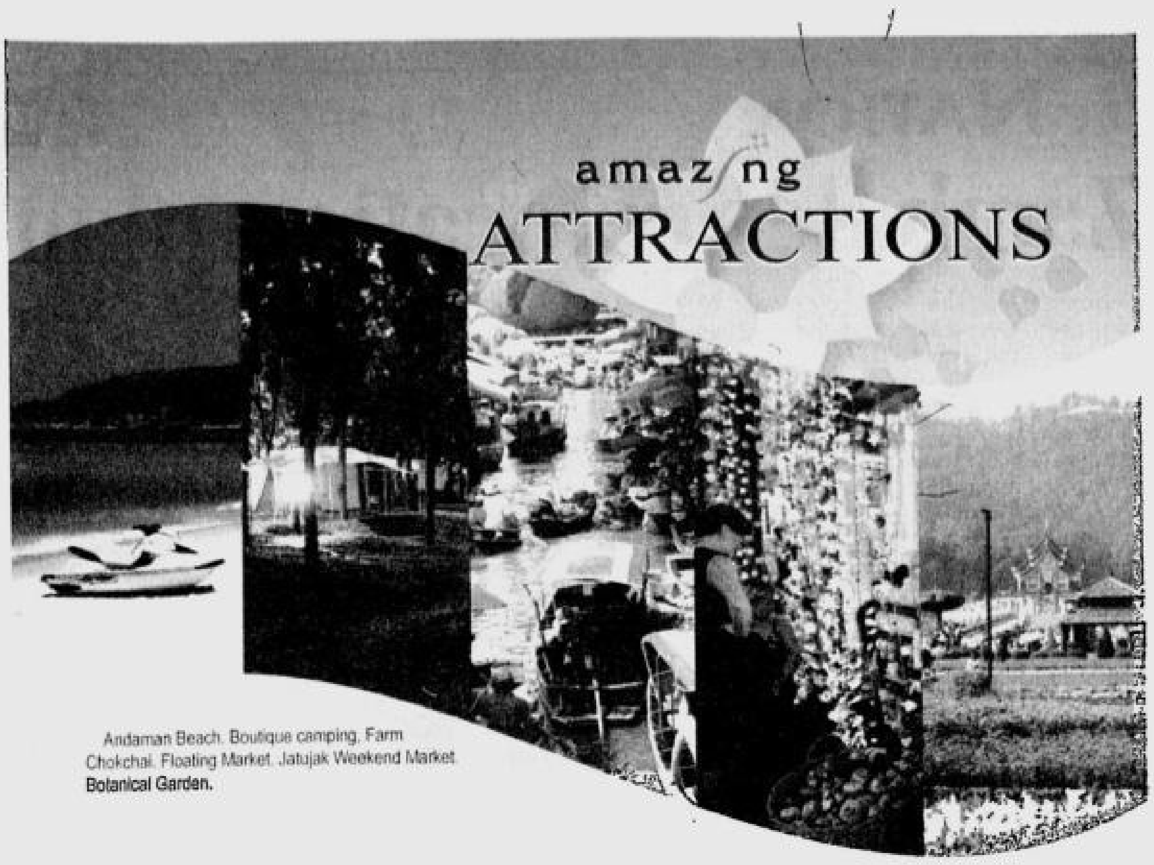
The 2003 uprising was one of the most serious challenges faced by Ms Arroyo since she took power in 2001. She has also survived two opposition impeachment bids.

Last June, President Macapagal-Arroyo approved the dishonorable discharge of 54 junior officers, the so-called "non-core group" of the Oakwood mutiny, after they were sentenced by the same court last April. They pleaded guilty to violating military order in a plea bargain.

The military tribunal sentenced the officers to seven years and six months in jail, followed by dishonorable discharges. It dropped charges of mutiny, which carry a 40-year jail term.

They will all be freed January 2008 after the tribunal considered time served and shaved off an additional three years due to several mitigating circumstances, including the officers' peaceful surrender and their guilty plea.

In May 2005, about 190 soldiers pleaded guilty to violating "good order and military discipline" and showing disrespect to the president. They were sentenced to a year of hard labor and demotion in rank, plus a two-thirds cut on their pay for three months. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño, AP and AFP*



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DID YOU KNOW

QUEZON City, the country's former capital, is home to 125 national government offices, including the House of Representatives complex, the Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior and Local Government.

As of 2001, there are more than 55,000 business establishments in the city, almost half of which (47 percent) are involved in the wholesale and retail trade. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

Ex-city engineer cleared in Ozone case

Sandigan: No proof he gave permit for disco operation sans inspection

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS CLEARED ALFREDO Macapugay, the former city engineer and building official of Quezon City, of criminal charges in connection with the Ozone Disco fire that killed 160 people in 1996.

In a resolution dated Aug. 16, the anti-graft court's Third Division said the prosecution failed to prove Macapugay's "authorship" of the crime. It added that there was not enough proof to show he was involved in the granting of permits to the disco without first conducting an inspection of the establishment.

The court also dismissed the claims for damages filed by relatives of the victims against Macapugay.

The former Quezon City official was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple physical injuries for his alleged negligence in validating whether or not the disco and its facilities were safe during its construction and renovation in 1991 and 1992, respectively.

"The court is not oblivious to the plight of the surviving victims and families of the deceased. But to convict someone who apparently had no hand in the issuance of the subject building permits is anathema to the concept of justice," read the resolution penned by Associate Justice Efren Dela Cruz.

A total of 160 persons were killed and 95 others hurt during a fire at the disco on Timog Avenue on March 18, 1996, trapping teenagers celebrating their graduation from school.

The court, however, noted that

EX-CITY/A18

WHAT WENT BEFORE

ON MARCH 18, 1996, a four-hour blaze gutted the Ozone disco on Timog Avenue in Quezon City, killing 160 people and injuring 95 others, most of them students who were celebrating the end of the school year.

Five years later, in November 2001, 12 officials of the Quezon City government facing charges in connection with the incident pleaded innocent to charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple serious physical injuries.

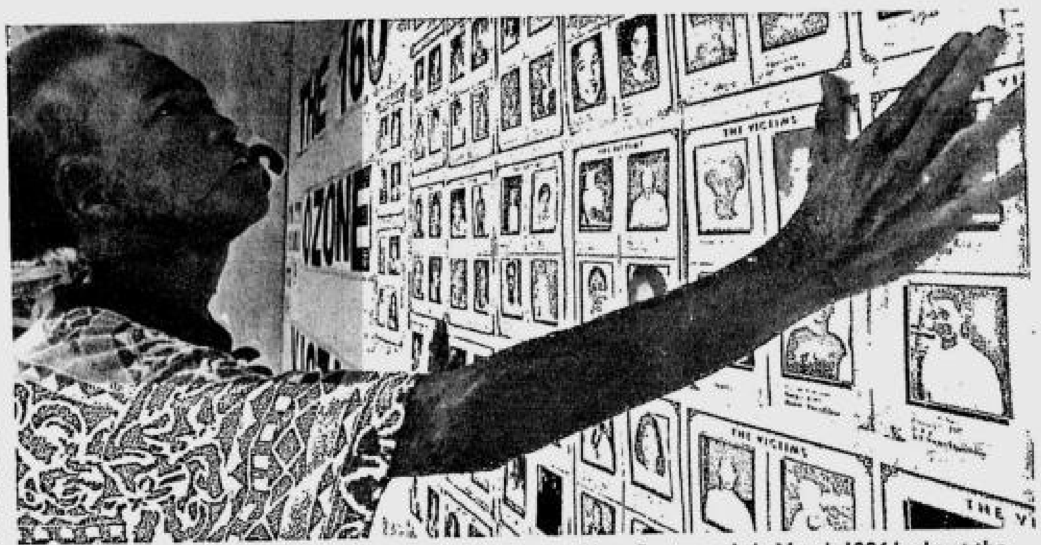
Three other officials who were also charged refused to enter a plea. They were accused of allowing the dance club to secure a certificate of annual inspection in 1995 "despite the inadequacy, insufficiency and impropriety of the documents submitted by the owners."

As a result, the owners of Ozone allegedly continued "to operate and do business in an establishment known and discovered to have been a fire hazard and a fire trap."

Months earlier, in March 2001, a court found two of the owners guilty of reckless imprudence. Apart from handing down a maximum four-year jail term to Hermilo Ocampo, president of the company that operated the disco, and company treasurer Ramon Ng, Judge Ophelia Marquez also ordered them and four other board members to pay a fine of over P20 million.

Ocampo, Ng and the other board members—Ocampo's wife Racquel, Rosita Ku, her son Sonny Ku and Alfredo Chua—were ordered to pay P150,000 in death indemnity and damages to the families of each of those killed and P100,000 to those injured.

Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research



A TEENAGER who was among those injured in the Ozone Disco fire tragedy in March 1996 looks at the pictures of his friends who perished in the incident in this file photograph. INQUIRER PHOTO

Disbarment case vs MJ lawyers looms

By DJ Yap

CAROL CASTAÑEDA-JIMENEZ, the estranged partner of former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, is seriously considering filing a disbarment case against her husband's lawyers for "gross ignorance of the law," her stepson, Virgilio Crespo, said yesterday.

"Not only do his lawyers ignore the law, they're also abusing the legal process by not advising my father to comply with the court order," Crespo told reporters during a break in yesterday's hearing in a Taguig City court.

Crespo said Jimenez's lawyers, Frank Chavez and his colleagues in the Chavez, Miranda and Aseoche law office, have continued to ignore the temporary protection order the court had issued against Jimenez.

He said proof of this was his father's refusal, purportedly on his lawyers' advice, to leave their condominium unit at Essensa Towers at The Fort, one of the provisions in the protection order.

Jimenez and Chavez were absent at the hearing, with lawyer Buenaventura Miranda representing the former. Lawyers for both parties are covered by a gag order and did not speak to media.

Crespo also reiterated his advice for his father to see a psychiatrist.

"I'm encouraging him to seek mental treatment. He really needs medical help. We are very much concerned about my father's behavior," he said.

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Bomb scare in Makati; more cops deployed vs threats

By Allison W. Lopez and DJ Yap

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO Lim yesterday ordered the police to increase security by deploying more cops to crowded areas in the city.

Lim told MPD acting director, Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa, to step up police visibility in shopping malls, mass transportation systems and the vicinity of schools as a precautionary measure.

There had been reports that the military offensive against armed groups in Basilan and Sulu could prompt retaliatory attacks in other areas, including Metro Manila.

Meanwhile, a cardboard box left right next to a building caused jitters yesterday among office workers in a busy section of Makati City who feared that it contained a bomb.

But upon inspection by explosives experts who had cordoned off the area, the box, sealed in packaging tape, was found to be harmless.

It contained wood scraps and other garbage, the Makati police said.

The box was found close to the Manila Electric Co. building on Metropolitan Avenue, San Antonio Village at 11:10 a.m., said Supt. Gilbert Cruz, chief of the Makati police.

"We just blasted the box using a water cannon so we didn't have to open it or subject it to X-ray," Cruz said.

The police chief added that though the area was cleared of people, they opted not to evacuate the building.

A janitor who became suspicious of the box's contents shortly after he found it called the police.

PO2 Cristy Inocencio of the Special Weapons And Tactics unit said they immediately called up the Explosives and Ordnance Division (EOD) for assistance.

"It was a good thing the Makati police headquarters is near the area so the EOD was able to respond immediately," she said.

The bomb squad declared the area safe at 11:50 a.m.

The Philippine National Police has raised its alert level to full alert as President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the agency and the Armed Forces to bolster security measures in all areas.

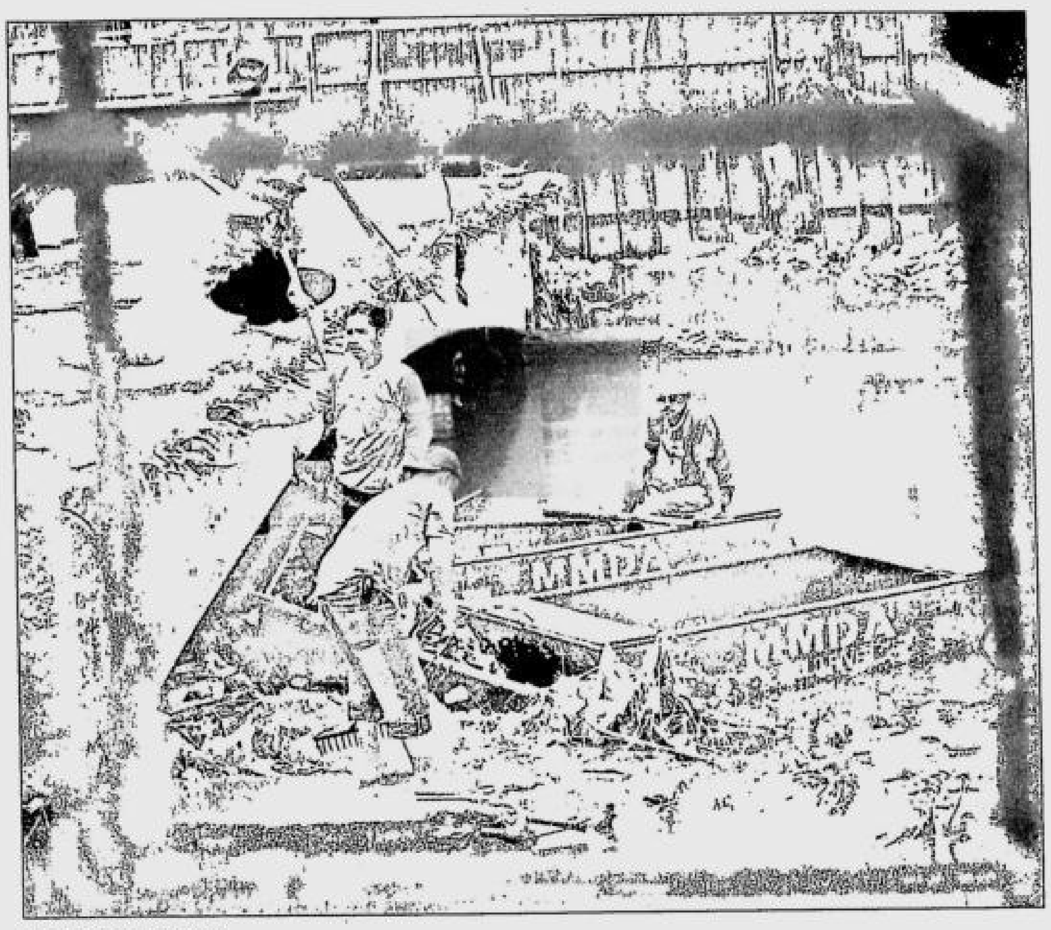
She issued the order after 14 people were injured in a bombing incident at a public plaza in Zamboanga City on Tuesday night.

Lim asked Abarzosa to coordinate with mobile division head, Chief Supt. Rolly Tumalad, so that patrol cars could be immediately dispatched to public places.

Uniformed policemen should also monitor these areas to preempt any attempt to disrupt the peace, the mayor added.

Lim stressed that police visibility remains the best deterrent against all kinds of criminal activities.

HAVE YOU SEEN HIM? Heinz Wiedmer has been missing since Aug. 16. The 54-year-old Wiedmer stands 5'11" and weighs 180 lbs. His son, Patrick, can be contacted at 0905-3437733 for any information regarding his whereabouts.



CLEANUP TIME
A cleanup team of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority clears the Tullahan River in Valenzuela City of garbage. The huge amount of trash in the river has delayed the bridge's rehabilitation. JOAN BONDOC

Trader linked to brother-in-law's slay object of manhunt

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE QUEZON CITY POLICE ARE looking for a businessman accused of killing his brother-in-law and then escaping on board the victim's car on Tuesday night.

Ernesto Amparo, 52, a businessman and resident of Sto. Domingo St. in Barangay Holy Spirit, Quezon City, died after he was shot several times in different parts of the body.

He was declared dead on arrival by doctors at the Malvar General Hospital.

The suspect, his brother-in-law Ruben Salud, fled on board the victim's car, a brown GT Mitsubishi with license plate PHA 356.

Reports from the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said the incident happened at around 7 p.m. Tuesday, at the victim's house.

According to PO3 Jun Fortunato, the two engaged in a heated argument after the suspect, who was renting the house to the victim, ordered him to leave.

The policeman added that the victim was recently separated from his wife, the suspect's sister.

Amparo, however, reportedly refused to leave, prompting Salud to take out a gun and challenge him to a duel, Fortunato said.

The suspect allegedly shot Amparo when he tried to flee on board his car.

The victim was again shot several times in the chest when he tried to run back inside the house to seek shelter, according to the police report.

After the victim fell to the ground, the suspect escaped on board his vehicle.

Amparo's housemates and barangay watchmen rushed him to the nearest medical facility where he was declared dead on arrival.

MetroBriefs

New robbery scheme

THE VALENZUELA City police have warned people who ride in buses or jeepneys against the newest modus operandi being used by robbers. City police chief Supt. Billy Beltran yesterday said that members of the group would tell their victims that there was spit in their hair. "As soon as the victims turn their attention to their hair, one of the suspects would try to steal their wallet," he added. Stickers warning the public against the gang's modus operandi have been posted by the police on buses and jeepneys in Valenzuela, Beltran said.

Nancy C. Carvajal

No drinking in public

THE QUEZON City Police District has launched an all-out campaign against drinking in public to rid the city streets of "neighborhood toughies" and troublemakers. In a report to Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., QCPD chief Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula also said he has warned street and pushcart dwellers to refrain from occupying public areas or risk being arrested. He added that he has directed the city's 11 police station commanders to enforce the provision of a city ordinance which prohibits the drinking of alcohol in public places "in a bid to promote a better image for Quezon City." According to Gatdula, around 52 street and pushcart dwellers were recently rounded up for violating the ordinance. "We urge the public to cooperate with the police to avoid arrest," he said.

Margaux C. Ortiz

Lim to Atienza on Manila Bay cleanup: Just say the word

By Kristine L. Alave

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO LIM yesterday said he is willing to work with his predecessor, Lito Atienza, now environment secretary, in reviving Manila Bay.

In a chance interview in Greenhills, San Juan City, where he attended a meeting of the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino, of which he is president, Lim said he would work with Atienza to restore the bay to its former glory, regardless of their political differences.

At the same time, the Manila mayor stressed that he does not regret demolishing the establishments along Baywalk, one of Atienza's major projects, as the bars and businesses that used to operate in the area did not have business permits.

In a past interview, Atienza said he would ask the help of the Manila mayor and other local officials to rehabilitate the polluted Manila Bay, which he described as a "national treasure."

According to him, local governments should rid the bay of trash and make it more sustainable for fishermen.

Lim said he is open to hearing suggestions from Atienza about the bay cleanup. "If we receive an invitation, we are willing to sit down with them," he told the INQUIRER.

But so far, he has not heard from Atienza, he added.

The two officials have disagreed in the past on ways to govern Manila. Atienza is an ardent administration ally, while Lim belongs to the opposition.

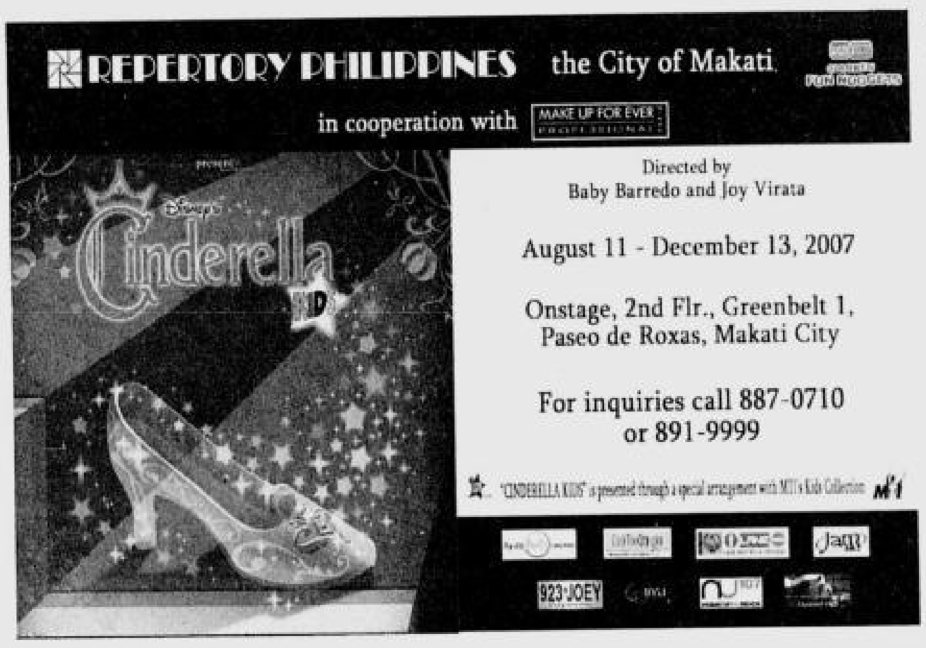
In the last May elections, Atienza's son Ali ran against Lim for the post of mayor.

Ex-city

. . . From page A17

the evidence presented by the prosecution pointed to former Assistant City Engineer Benjamin Malinao as the person who could be accountable for the "omissions" that led to the tragedy.

The court said it was Malinao who examined the supporting documents when Ozone applied for a building permit. He also reportedly approved the design plan and issued permits for its renovation despite proof that the the building design was not strictly followed.



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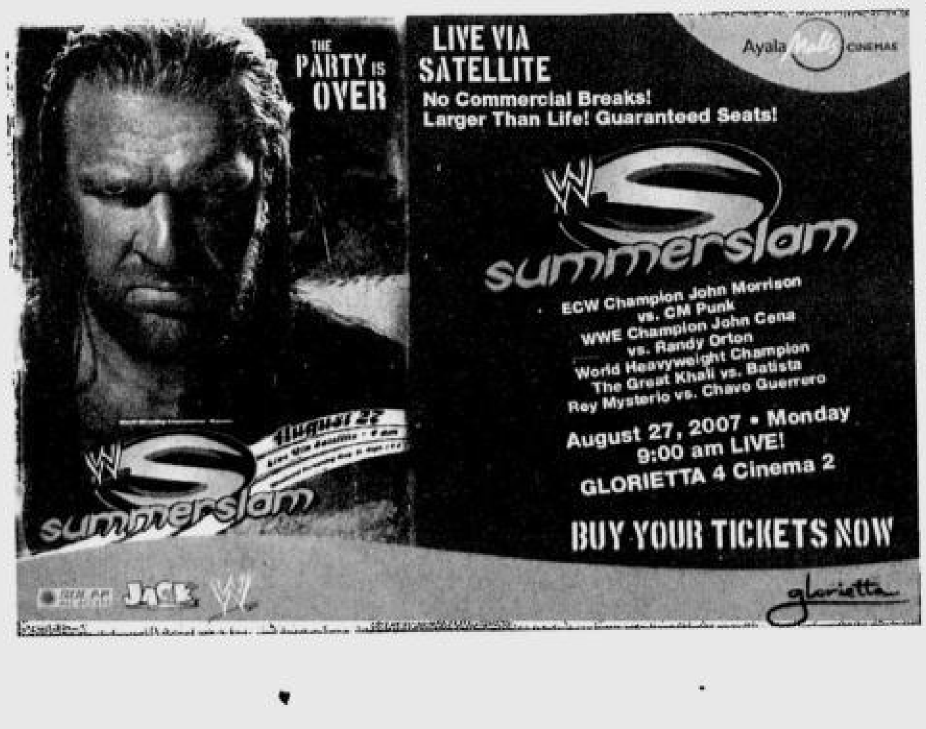

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ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

I HAVE NO LOVE LOST FOR SEN. Panfilo Lacson, but he hit the nail on the head when he said that the car smugglers at the Subic Freeport are close to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sen. Richard Gordon said the same thing: That people close to the President were behind the car smuggling at Subic.

The biggest smuggler is allegedly a former local government official of Zambales, according to my sources.

The guy carries a household name and it's a pity he's using it the wrong way.

Two other big smugglers, my Subic Freeport sources allege, are not close to the President but those close to her family.

They can't be stopped, my sources said, because of their connections.

But equally to blame are Subic Port Customs Collector Marietta Zamoranos and Freeport anti-smuggling czar Jose Calimlim, a retired military general.

Why haven't they stopped the smuggling of luxury cars at the Freeport when they were supposedly told by the President not to have any sacred cows at the Freeport?

And why haven't the two been replaced for sleeping on the job?

My sources said the President is having a hard time replacing Zamoranos because she's reportedly a niece of former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano of "Hello Garci" infamy.

***

Speaking of car smuggling, Port Irene in Cagayan and Cebu Port are equally notorious.

Many luxury cars running outside Metro Manila were landed at Port Irene and the Cebu Port. Their taxes and duties, like those that landed at Subic, were allegedly paid for with a song.

A close relative of a prominent politician is allegedly behind car smuggling in one of those ports.

***

Lt. Gen. Eugene Cedo, commander of the Western Mindanao Command (Wesmincom), lashed at the INQUIRER for reporting the lapses in Saturday's clash in Basilan where 15 Marines were killed.

Blaming others for one's incompetence is a defense mechanism.

Cedo should have resigned to save face.

Cedo is retiring next month, and the guy who's slated to replace him is Maj. Gen. Nelson Allaga, Marine commandant.

The ambuscades took place during Allaga's watch in the elite Marine Corps.

***

President Arroyo should sack DPWH-National Capital Region Director Josefino Rigor for the Tullahan Bridge fiasco.

The unfinished reconstruction of Tullahan Bridge is the cause of major traffic jams in the Camanava (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela) area.

Rigor allegedly has not only failed to finish the project on time but he has also repeatedly bungled efforts to create a temporary bridge for the use of the people in the area.

Recently, Sen. Bong Revilla, chair of the Senate committee on public works, took Rigor to task for allegedly overpricing the reconstruction of the bridge.

Incidentally, my sources in the casinos say Rigor has allegedly been been making frequent visits to the casino.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

BIN LADEN AP

Bin Laden alive, says Taliban chief

WASHINGTON—A TOP TALIBAN commander said al-Qaida mastermind Osama bin Laden is alive and well, according to US-based analysts monitoring extremist publications.

"All praise be to Allah, he is extremely healthy and active," the commander Mansour Dadullah said in a video interview, according to a transcript of the video's English subtitled translation, released on Tuesday by the analyst IntelCenter.

Dadullah, whose brother Mullah Dadullah was also a top commander in the Afghanistan-based militants and was killed this year, said he had been contacted by Bin Laden, the man blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

"I received a message from him in which he advised me 'I must follow Mullah Dadullah and continue the same activities so that the mujahedeen (Islamic fighters) may not weaken," he said, according to the transcript.

The video is dated June 15, IntelCenter said.

After the attacks the United States led an invasion of Afghanistan to oust the Taliban regime allied with al-Qaida and believed the Saudi-born Bin Laden was hiding there. But after pounding the mountains where his den was thought to be, US-led forces failed to find him.

Bin Laden, who has a $50-million US bounty on his head, has appeared in a series of video and audio clips since the 9-11 attacks but has not been heard from since May 2006, when the CIA authenticated a voice recording on the Internet as his.

In the recording, which was accompanied by an online text, the terror network chief said Zacarias Moussaoui, a 37-year-old Frenchman of Moroccan origin and the only man convicted in the 9-11 attacks, had nothing to do with the operation. *AFP*

Top CIA execs blamed for 9/11

WASHINGTON—A TWO-YEAR-OLD CIA INQUIRY URGED holding former CIA director George Tenet and other top agency officials to account for leadership failures before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, a summary released on Tuesday said.

The CIA's inspector general recommended in June 2005 that CIA set up "accountability boards" to consider disciplinary action against Tenet and other top officials for the failures, but was turned down by then CIA director Porter Goss.

Michael Hayden, the spy agency's current director, said in declassifying the top secret summary that he saw no reason to revisit the inspector general's recommendations.

The report found that Tenet failed to produce a comprehensive strategy to fight al-Qaida before the Sept. 11 attacks, and did not make effective use of his authority to marshal support for a counterterrorism effort that he had proclaimed as a top priority.

Tenet, "by virtue of his position, bears ultimate responsibility for the fact that no such strategic plan was ever created, despite his specific direction that this should be done," the report said.

It blamed Tenet for not settling a dispute that impeded cooperation between the CIA and the National Security Agency on al-Qaida far into 2001, and said an accountability board should review his performance for possible disciplinary action.

Tenet issued a statement calling the report's conclusions "flat wrong." In a separate statement, Hayden also said that "our colleagues referred to in the document, and others who have read it, took strong exception to its focus, methodology, and conclusions." Names and positions of some of those criticized were censored in the summary.

In addition to Tenet, the inspector general recommended accountability boards for the CIA's former executive director AB "Buzzy" Krongard, former deputy director for operations Jim Pavitt, former counterterrorism center chief Cofer Black, and four other unidentified officials.

The top CIA officials were singled out for not using all funds allocated for counterterrorism activities,, and moving some of those monies to other unrelated activities.

The counterterrorism center chief was criticized because a unit set up to follow the activities of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden was overworked and lacked operational experience, expertise and training.

Poor coordination among its various units resulted in the center failing to understand earlier the pivotal role of Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, the report said.

"This intelligence was not voluminous and its significance is easier to understand in hindsight, but it was noteworthy even in the pre-9/11 period because it included the allegation that KSM was sending terrorists to the United States to engage in activities on behalf of Bin Laden," it said.

The report also criticized intelligence sharing between the agency and federal law enforcement authorities, which failed most spectacularly in the case of two Sept. 11 hijackers, Nawaz al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Midhar.

The CIA learned they had attended a meeting of suspected terrorists in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in January, 2000 and that one of them had received a visit to the United States.

The CIA's counterterrorism center learned that the other flew from Bangkok to Los Angeles in mid-march 2000. *AFP*

Bush withholds support from Iraq PM

MONTEBELLO, CANADA—US PRESIDENT George W. Bush on Tuesday withheld his support from embattled Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and said Iraqi voters could decide to replace him.

"There's a certain level of frustration with the leadership in general," Bush said after two senior US lawmakers suggested Iraq's parliament remove Maliki's government if it fails to make progress on national reconciliation.

While Bush acknowledged the Baghdad government was failing to live up to expectations, he planned to issue a stark warning on Wednesday that an early US withdrawal from Iraq could have traumatic consequences similar to the Vietnam war's bloody aftermath in Southeast Asia.

In excerpts from Bush's address released by the White House in advance on Tuesday, the president was to charge that an early exit from Iraq would "pull the rug out" from under US troops just as their efforts are paying off.

In his speech to be given Wednesday, Bush ties anti-war forces in the Vietnam era to the hundreds of thousands of people killed in the aftermath of the US pull-out, and hints at a parallel disaster in Iraq if US forces leave too soon.

"Many argued that if we pulled out, there would be no consequences for the Vietnamese people," he was to say. "The world would learn just how costly these misimpressions would be." "In Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge began a murderous rule in which hundreds of thousands of Cambodians died by starvation, torture, or execution. In Vietnam, former American allies, government workers, intellectuals, and businessmen were sent off to prison camps, where tens of thousands perished." "Hundreds of thousands more fled the country on rickety boats, many of them going to their graves in the South China Sea," said the text of the speech by Bush, who pleaded for patience with the US-led security crackdown in Iraq.

Bush was scheduled to deliver his speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars group, which claims 2.3 million members, on Wednesday in Kansas City, Missouri, for their annual convention.

The US president previously drew a parallel between Vietnam and Iraq in November during a visit to Vietnam. *AFP*

CHINA
B-18616

THIS combo pictures show China Airlines jet that exploded in a fireball Monday taken Tuesday, Aug. 21, above, and taken Wednesday, Aug. 22, bottom, at Naha Airport in Okinawa. The company logo on the mangled aircraft was marked out. AP

RESCUE workers and firemen look at trees that fell on cars in Puebla as Hurricane Dean batters central Mexico on Aug. 21. REUTERS

Hurricane Dean weakens in Mexico

CHETUMAL, MEXICO—A weakened Hurricane Dean swirled over the Gulf of Mexico amid warnings the killer storm could regain some of its lost punch when it makes a second landfall in central Mexico on Wednesday.

After slamming onto Mexico's Caribbean coast as a monstrous category five storm Tuesday, Dean was downgraded to category one as it pushed back out into the Gulf to pound Mexico's offshore oil platforms with heavy rains and battering waves.

Despite the rare intensity the storm packed when it hit land on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula before dawn Tuesday, ripping trees out of the ground and causing floods, there were no immediate reports of casualties.

The powerful gusts shattered windows and destroyed bus shelters, cutting electricity to a vast area and sent tens of thousands of people fleeing for safer ground.

Authorities in neighboring Belize said the small central American country did suffer some damage to buildings, but did not report any deaths.

Dean had killed at least nine people during its earlier rampage across the Caribbean.

The worst of the storm hit lightly populated areas, sparing popular tourist resorts and causing no major structural damage in cities near its point of entry into Mexico.

The hurricane lost much of its power as it swirled across the Yucatan Peninsula but forecasters said it could regain fuel from the warm Gulf waters as it headed toward central Mexico for a second landfall. *AFP*

WorldBriefs

Chopper crash kills 14 US soldiers

BAGHDAD—Fourteen American soldiers were killed in northern Iraq on Wednesday when their Blackhawk transport helicopter crashed during a pre-dawn flight, US command said in a statement. "Initial indications are that the aircraft experienced a mechanical malfunction. There were no indications of hostile fire," the military said, adding that all four crew and 10 passengers died. Two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from Task Force Lightning, which operates in northern Iraq, were on the night mission when one of them went down, according to a statement from the unit's headquarters in Tikrit. *AFP*

Taliban renews death threats

GHAZNI, AFGHANISTAN—Taliban militants who have been holding 19 South Koreans for more than a month renewed a threat on Wednesday to kill them if their demands are not met. A purported rebel spokesperson, Zabihullah Mujahed, said some of the captives were sick and they were also suffering from lack of proper food. "If the demands of the Taliban are not met the Korean hostages face death," Mujahed told AFP in a telephone call from an unknown location. He did not, however, set any deadline and it was impossible to verify his comments independently. *AFP*

Suicide bomber kills 20 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A suicide bomber rammed a fuel tanker into a police station north of Baghdad on Wednesday, killing at least 20 people and wounding 40, police said. Police said the bomber struck the front gates of the police directorate in Baiji, 180 km north of Baghdad. Dr. Thamir Kawan, the head of Baiji hospital, said 11 people, police and civilians, had been killed in the blast. *Reuters*

US shuttle Endeavour lands safely

CAPE CANAVERAL—US shuttle Endeavour returned safely to Earth Tuesday, despite damage to its underside, after a 13-day mission in which the first teacher in space gave lessons to children back home. "You have given a new meaning to higher education," joked astronaut Chris Ferguson, as he welcomed back the five-man, two-woman crew including Endeavour astronaut Barbara Morgan, the first teacher in space. The Endeavour sailed back to the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, amid blue skies, touching down at 12:32 p.m. *AFP*

Jailed Iranian-American scholar freed

TEHRAN—An Iranian-American academic jailed for more than 100 days on suspicion of promoting a "velvet revolution" in the Islamic Republic was released on hefty bail on Tuesday, looking tired and much thinner from her ordeal but pronouncing herself well. *NYT*

Possible fuel leak eyed as cause of jet explosion

TOKYO—BOEING AND US AVIATION experts began investigating on Wednesday why a Taiwanese aircraft exploded minutes after landing at a southern Japan airport, focusing on a suspected fuel leak as the possible cause, a Japanese transport official said.

The China Airlines Boeing 737-800 exploded in a fireball Monday just seconds after all 157 passengers and eight crew evacuated safely onto the tarmac at Okinawa's Naha airport in southern Japan.

Investigators are focusing on a suspected fuel leak from one of the engines, based on reports by ground engineers who said they saw fuel leaking from the right engine as the plane pulled in to a parking spot after arriving from Taiwan.

"From the size and intensity of the fire, we may be looking at a very large fuel leak," said Hiromi Tsurumi, an Aircraft and Railway Accidents Investigation Commission spokesperson.

"We have not decided exactly when the leak started," Tsurumi said, adding that investigators were looking into the possibility that the leak began when the plane was still in the air.

Five US aviation officials, including experts from the aircraft maker Boeing Co., arrived in Naha to participate in the probe, which also involves Taiwanese and Japanese authorities. Among their key interests is possible damage to the pylon connecting the engine to the right wing, Tsurumi said.

Investigators planned to dismantle the pylon on Wednesday to see if there was any damage inside that could have punctured a pipe, causing fuel to rush into the engine and ignite fire. The aircraft was carrying about 4.7 tons of fuel when it landed, the Yomiuri newspaper said.

Officials have recovered voice and flight recorders for analysis, Tsurumi said, adding that authorities were also checking to see if the engine could have sucked in loose plane parts, damaging the fuel pipe. *AP*

Media bear some responsibility for Diana's death, says ex-editor

LONDON—A FORMER TABLOID newspaper editor says he and other media figures felt they bore some responsibility for the death of Princess Diana, who was killed in a car crash while pursued by paparazzi.

Phil Hall, former editor of News of the World, Britain's largest-selling newspaper, was interviewed for an ITV documentary to be broadcast on Wednesday reflecting on the death of the princess and her boyfriend Dodi Fayed a decade ago.

"I felt huge responsibility for what happened and I think everyone in the media did," Hall said.

He noted that the driver of the car, who also died in the crash in Paris, was found to be drunk.

"But my view is that if the paparazzi hadn't been following her the car wouldn't have been speeding and, you know, the accident may never have happened," Hall said.

Hall was editor of News of the World, a Sunday newspaper, from 1995 to 2000, and now runs a public relations company, Phil Hall Associates.

Police inquiries in both France and Britain concluded that pursuing photographers did not cause the crash, or fail to act properly at the scene. *AP*

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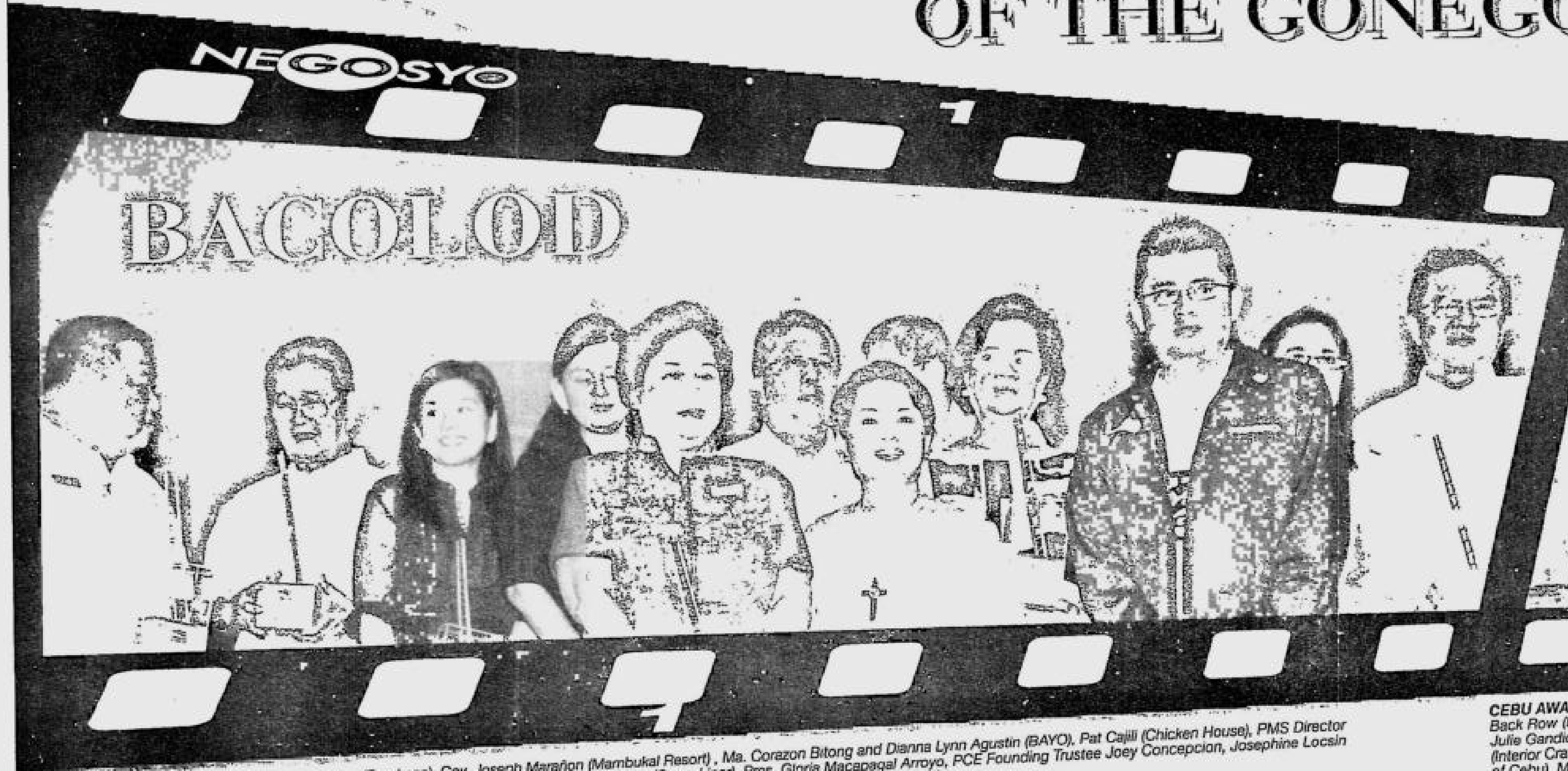

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NEGOSYO
2
CEBU

CEBU AWARDEES
Back Row (L-R) Bernie Liu (Penshoppe), William Liu Jr. (Primary Structures Corp.), Roberto Aboitiz (Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.), Julie Gandionco (Julie's Bakeshop), Steve Benitez (Bo's Coffee), Jack Gaisano (Metro Group of Companies), Kenneth Cobonpue (Interior Crafts of the Island), John Quisumbing (Norkis Group of Companies), Justin Uy (Profood Int'l. Corp.), Augusto Go (University of Cebu), Michel Lhuillier (MLhuillier Group of Companies), Wilson Ng (Ng Khai Dev't Corp.) Front Row (L-R) PCE Founding Trustee Joey Concepcion, PMS Director General Sec. Cerge Remonde, Cebu Governor Gwen Garcia, CBM 2007 Entrepreneurship Conference Chairman Jay Aldeguer, CCCI Pres. Francis Monera, PCCI President Samie Lim

3
NEGOSYO
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BAGUIO

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Back Row (L-R) Mario Alzona (ALPA PCM Inc.), Nancy Busacay (BITICK Women's Organization), Narda Capuyan (Narda's Handwoven Arts and Crafts), Naty Sugguiyao (Chico River Quest, Inc.), Michael del Rosario (Sunshine Grocery), Arturo Gayao (Gayao Furniture), Evelyn Ibay (Ibay's Silver Shop), Pynky Magsino (PNKY Collection), Donna Rufino (Star Carle), Sis. Patricia Perez (Good Shepherd Convent) with PCE Founding Trustee and Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion, DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus, PMS Director Ana Maria Cadena, Baguio-Benguet Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Engr. Alfonso Lao

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WHAT'S INSIDE

US five stakes clean slate /A24

Red Lions feast on Bombers

SBC, JRU coaches nearly trade blows after volatile match

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN BEDA, WITH ITS TOP STAR playing on the strength of a TRO, blasted Jose Rizal, 82-74, yesterday in the NCAA men's basketball tournament at The Arena in San Juan.

Yousif Aljamal fired a game-high 23 points as the defending champion Red Lions, already in the Final Four, boosted their pacesetting record to 9-1 at the end of a rugged match that later saw a near fistfight between the opposing coaches.

Before the game, Aljamal lashed out at a league decision to suspend him, which the TRO averted, for joining the recent PBA rookie draft (*see related story on this page*).

Later, Lions coach Frankie Lim and Bombers counterpart Ariel Vanguardia nearly went at each other in the coliseum hallway.

The near fistfight was triggered by a hard foul committed by Jose Rizal's Alvin Se on San Beda's Ogie Menor.

"I was very sure he (Vanguardia) instructed it," said Lim, who charged at the direction of Vanguardia after the foul before he was restrained.

Lim was still seething with anger when he showed up for the post-game interview. "It was the fifth flagrant foul against us, that's why I flared up."

"We played with a lot of heart and a lot of class," Lim added. "They (the Bombers) didn't show any class at all."

Among the flagrant fouls was the one Jose Rizal's Jayson Nocum committed on San Beda's Sam Ekwe in the first quarter.

Lim later told sportswriters in Filipino that he and Vanguardia could mix it up if the Bombers mentor was up to it. And that's exactly what nearly took place.

The two coaches bumped into each other—witnesses said somebody had tipped Vanguardia off about Lim's challenge—in the hallway by the press room and nearly traded blows. Cooler heads intervened and separated both coaches, who settled for an exchange of harsh words instead.

"He initiated the contact as if he really wanted a fight," Vanguardia told reporters later. "Now who's got no class?"

Aljamal told reporters in Filipino that

RED LIONS/ A22

GAMES TOMORROW
(*The Arena*)
9:30 a.m.—SSC vs Letran (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—Perpetual vs St. Benilde (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Perpetual vs St. Benilde (Srs)
4 p.m.—SSC vs Letran (Srs)

Court stops Aljamal suspension

DESPITE being in the center of a brewing controversy, Yousif Aljamal manages to keep his focus on the game, scoring 23 big points for San Beda against Jose Rizal in a game marked by a lot of emotion and a near fight between two coaches.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Marc Anthony Reyes and Allison Lopez

THE NCAA MANAGEMENT COMmittee (Mancom) can't put a leash on this Red Lion. At least, not for the next three days.

San Beda forward Yousif Aljamal was able to play for the Lions in their 82-74 win over the Jose Rizal Heavy Bombers yesterday on the strength of a 72-hour TRO granted by executive judge Reynaldo Ros of Branch 33 of the Manila Regional Trial Court earlier in the day.

The TRO prevented the Mancom from enforcing a suspension it slapped on Aljamal for joining the PBA rookie draft "without permission" last Sunday.

The NCAA's policy board, the highest governing body of the league, said it would act on the recommendation of the Mancom after the court order's shelf life lapses.

The Aljamal controversy was kicked off by the six-foot-two forward's decision to join the rookie draft where he was picked No. 8 overall by Air21. The Express later traded his rights to the Talk 'N Text Phone pals, which is owned by loyal San Beda benefactor Manny V. Pangilinan.

Aljamal had scoffed at the Mancom decision before suiting up against Jose Rizal yesterday.

"*Ang liit na bagay 'nun, bakit naman di ko gagawin na magpaalam* (It's too small a matter to make a fuss out of, I easily could have sought permission if I had known it was needed)," said the 24-year-old Aljamal.

"They tried to demoralize a team with a very flimsy [rule] which is not even in the constitution of the league," said San Beda rector and president Fr. Mateo de Jesus.

Ros signed the TRO filed yesterday morning by San Beda and Aljamal three hours before the 2 p.m. match

COURT/ A22

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
CORPORATE EXECUTIVE OFFICES, INC. 12/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6787 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Roy Alexander Folley	Director
CORPORATE EXECUTIVE OFFICES, INC. 12/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6787 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Alesya Jennifer Folley	Manager
CORPORATE EXECUTIVE OFFICES, INC. 12/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6787 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jonas Golding Marcelo	General Manager
BRITISH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION INC. 36th St. University Park , Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Jessica Anne Holt	Teacher
BRITISH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION INC. 36th St. University Park , Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Rachel Vivienne Garrick	Teacher
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CHIYODA PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Meralco Avenue cor. Gen. Araneta St., Pasig City	Yutaka Inaba	Vice President for Electrical & Instrumentation Engineering Department
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WORLD WIDE KOREX CORPORATION Unit 504 Kalaw Ledesma Bldg., 117 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Sunkil Song	General Director
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INFONXX (PHILIPPINES) INC. 11/F RCBC Plaza, Tower 2, Ayala cor. Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati City	Ian Dennis Ranscombe	Senior Director of Network Operations
YAMATAKE PHILIPPINES, INC. 5/F 109 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Choo Ping Lau	Managing Director
SPI TECHNOLOGIES INC. SPI Bldg., Pascor Drive, Sto. Nino, Parañaque City	Cynthia Anne Hauck	Director, Operations
APM GLOBAL LOGISTICS FILIPINAS INC. 51/F PBCom Tower, 6795 Ayala Ave., cor. Rufino St., Makati City	Maruly Suryono	Assistant General Manager
PHILIPPINE BUDDHACARE ACADEMY, INC. 15 Don Pepe St., Sto. Domingo, Quezon City	Dongna Li	Elementary Teacher
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THE MANILA HOTEL CORP. One Rizal Park, Manila	Liyong He	Sous Chef (Roasting-Chinese Kitchen)
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CEMEX STRATEGIC PHILIPPINES, INC. 25/F Petron Mega Plaza Bldg., 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	Borja Perez Saenz De Miera	Logistics Planning Officer

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity.
For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI - August 23, 2007)

Warriors take on Bulldogs

Eye 10th straight win

UNIVERSITY OF the East aims for its 10th straight victory when it tackles National University today in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

And coach Dindo Pumaren admits the Warriors are feeling the heat of their winning streak.

"We know all the teams are preparing for us; all the more we have to be ready," said Pumaren.

The Warriors are heavily favored against the National U Bulldogs in their 4 p.m. encounter, but Pumaren refuses to let his team take this assignment lightly.

"There should be no letup," he said. "We've been able to execute well, we hope to sustain that. We're preparing for [NU's] shooters. NU lives and dies at the three-point area."

The La Salle Green Archers also have several gunners to watch out for in their 2 p.m. clash against the Adamson Falcons.

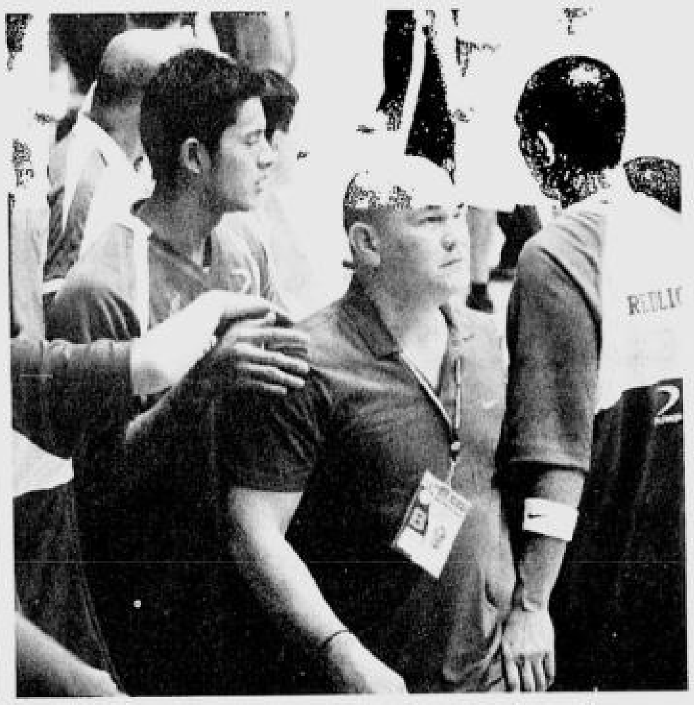
Several Warriors have consistently stepped up every game.

Last Sunday, one of the team's "projects" turned up as the Warriors cruised to a 99-82 triumph over defending champion University of Santo Tomas.

Narciso Pari Llagas, named UAAP Press Corps Anta Player of the Week, buried a career-high 21 points on top of seven rebounds, two steals and two blocks. *Jasmine W. Payo*

STANDINGS	W	L
UE	9	0
La Salle	6	3
FEU	5	4
UST	5	4
Ateneo	4	4
NU	4	4
Adamson	1	7
UP	0	8

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—La Salle vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—NU vs UE (Srs)



SAN BEDA coach Frankie Lim is being pacified by players after charging at Jose Rizal coach Ariel Vanguardia. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Red Lions feast...

From page A21

the league "knew beforehand that I would enter the draft and they said nothing about it. If they had told me, I would have asked their permission."

The Bombers saw their win run snap at five but stayed in contention for a Final 4 seat at 6-4.

Mapua later scored an 84-71 win over St. Benilde to stay in contention for the next round. The Cardinals closed out the eliminations with a 6-6 slate, while handing the Blazers their 10th loss in 11 games.

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

JOSE RIZAL 109—Cipriano 42, Agovida 35, Madlangbayan 16, Vigil 10, Camar 4, Regis 2, Vital 0, Matias 0, Villegas 0, Villasper 0.

SAN BEDA 103—Salva 29, Revilla 18, Bernas 13, Lobaton 12, Dela Cruz 10, Babilonia 9, Panaligan 4, Monteclaro 3, Ayala 3, Asinas 2, Altamirano 0.

Quarters: 20-23, 44-53, 77-83, 109-103

Second Game (Srs)

SAN BEDA 82—Aljamal 23, Menor 16, Escobal 15, Ekwe 14, Hermida 5, Lanete 5, Gamalinda 2, Tirona 0, Taganas 0, Maggay 0.

JOSE RIZAL 74—Sena 18, Hayes 13, Wilson 13, Nocom 8, Pradas 7, Cagoco 5, Cunanan 3, Agas 3, Se 2, Bulangis 2, Lituania 0.

Quarters: 12-14, 28-36, 59-51, 82-74

Third Game (Srs)

MAPUA 84—Dela Pena 26, Del Rosario 22, Co 14, Acosta 8, Banal 6, Pascual 5, Sumalinog 3, Guillermo 0.

ST. BENILDE 71—Robles 20, Sevilla 10, Johnston 10, Layug 8, Porras 8, Cadiz 4, Cabatu 4, Manlapaz 3, Montecastro 2, David 2.

Quarters: 28-20, 44-35, 59-55, 84-71

Court stops suspension

From page A21

of the Lions and host Jose Rizal.

The SBC petition for TRO called the Mancom penalty suspending the Bedans' key player "severe," and said there was "no provision or regulation" cited in the decision as the one he supposedly violated.

The Mancom had earlier charged Aljamal with violating a league rule that prevents any player from participating in "other basketball games," in an apparent reference to the PBA rookie camp that Aljamal joined before the draft.

However, San Beda contended in its petition that the rookie camp is not covered by the NCAA's constitution and bylaws since it is not a "sports contest, league or tournament" where the common element was "to win or succeed."

Aljamal, added the document, "has not been offered any contract or agreement by the team that drafted him, nor participated in any workout or practice session with Air 21."

San Beda also noted that the memo suspending Aljamal was given to the player only a day before the JRU game despite being dated Aug. 8.

"The proximity of the issuance and service of the notice to the Aug. 22 game of SBC and JRU even shows that the Mancom purposely devised the scheme to deprive SBC and Aljamal any opportunity to vent their side and altogether deprive Aljamal of his right to participate in said game."

Honasan vows Magna Carta for sports

By June Navarro

SENATOR GRINGO HONASAN YESterday vowed to propose a "Magna Carta" for sports, an encompassing law which aims to cover all areas pertaining to the welfare of national athletes and the development of sports in the country.

Speaking before athletes and sports officials yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Honasan said the Magna Carta for sports could readily address critical issues on budget allocation and the continuity of programs.

"These are two vital issues crucial to the development of sports," said Honasan, chair of the Senate committee on sports.

Honasan explained that current sports programs are bound to be shelved once a new set of government-appointed officers in the Philippine Sports Commission takes over.

"There's no sustainability because we always go back to zero every time a new (PSC) chair gets appointed. It's basically an obstacle to growth and improvement," said Honasan

On government funding, Honasan espoused the need for officials to prioritize on where the money should be set aside due to budgetary constraints.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez, Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. and PSC commissioners Ritchie Garcia and Ambrocio de Luna graced the affair attended by at least 300 athletes and officials from national sports associations.

Otie Camangian, secretary general of the Philippine Volleyball Association, floated the idea of treating athletes as government employees.

MIKASA
ITALIA

SPIKE: Italy's Taismary Aguero (left) spikes the ball against Russia's Marina Akulova in the 2007 FIVB World Grand Prix in Ningbo, China, on Aug. 22. Italy won, 25-18, 25-17, 23-25, 25-17. AP

Chinese dump Blu Girls, 6-1

JAKARTA—CHINA CRUSHED THE Philippines, 6-1, yesterday at the start of the eight-team page system playoff of the ninth Asian Women's softball championship at the Senayan Sports Complex here.

The Chinese raked Blu Girls' ace pitcher Cloine Muyco for eight hits, including a solo home run by catcher Lu Yi in the fourth inning to back up Chinese hurler Yu Haili.

With the loss, the Blu Girls, who wound up second behind defending champion Japan in Group A of the two-group, 10-team elimination round Tuesday, needed to beat Indonesia yesterday afternoon to keep their hopes alive of placing third and securing a seat in the 2009 world championship.

The Indons, coached by former RP pitching ace Hernando Posadas, showed their worth earlier in the day by ripping Thailand, 16-1.

In other games, Korea dumped Singapore, coached by Filipino Ulysses Mejia, 3-1, while Japan shut out Chinese Taipei, 3-0.

"That was a good game, we just didn't have the hits when we needed them. Rest and prepare for our next games. We can still make it to our target," said Amateur Softball Association-Philippines president Jean Henri Lhuiller as he consoled the Filipinas after their loss to China.

Lhuillier arrived Tuesday evening with secretary general Danny Francisco.

If they hurdle the Indons, the Filipinas have to win one more time to secure a rematch with the Chinese and the Japanese, who blasted the Blu Girls, 10-0, in the eliminations late Monday.

The Blu Girls earlier trounced South Korea, 6-1, in a rain-interrupted triumph ending their elimination stint Tuesday behind a three-hitter by Muyco

The game was halted as rains flooded the playing field and resumed after four hours.

Scorpions sting foes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CENTRO ESCOLAR MAY HAVE ended the first round with a whimper, but it certainly started the second with a bang.

The last team to make it to the next round, CEU leaned on the endgame heroics of Jeric Magno and Eddie Camacho to trip league-leader and erstwhile unbeaten STI, 65-64, Tuesday in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament at the UM gym.

It was only the fifth win in 10 games for the Scorpions, who dealt the Olympians their first setback after nine straight victories.

The Scorpions, who trailed all the way, tied it at 64 on a free throw by Camacho and a quick basket from Magno following a steal off Nino Juan with 33 seconds left.

CEU then foiled STI's final offensive with a trapping defense and Magno went on to deliver the win by making his second free throw from a foul by Raymond Tiongco with 1.3 seconds left

Camacho shot 16 points while the 6-foot-4 Magno added 14.

Earlier, defending champion AMACU rode a pivotal third quarter burst to down St. Clare, 87-75, and improve to 8-2

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Gobernadora (5), Cebtaur Khan (2), Afire (3)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Cheska Run (5), Dream Rose (4), Hepburn (1), Please Don't Stop (6)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Great Emma (5), Marque/Tereshkova (6), Serious Susie (4), beautiful Pet (1)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Macalelon (4), Just A Moment (6), Scarab (6), Ingay Ingay (2)
Race 5—(Tri)—Arctic Desert (3), Regent Skipper (3), Rapid Fire (1)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Mojito (3), Aly Dancer (6), Rain Dancer (1), On The Fairway (4)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Kalmia (3), Irupt (1), Angel Eunice/Brazhovie (6), Phil's Game (4)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Kay Akino (5), Bootlegs (4), Sweet Luvin (8), Yanong Rikit (1), Windtalker (10), Brown Bomber (3)

Ikeda prevails

CHIHIRO IKEDA NIPPED MIA PICCIO yesterday, bagging the Malaysian Junior Open crown with a closing four-over par 76 at the Saujana Golf and Country Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The 16-year-old Ikeda, who led in the first day with a 68 but fell by one to Piccio with a second round 74, endured four bogeys with no birdie to win with a 54-hole aggregate of 218.

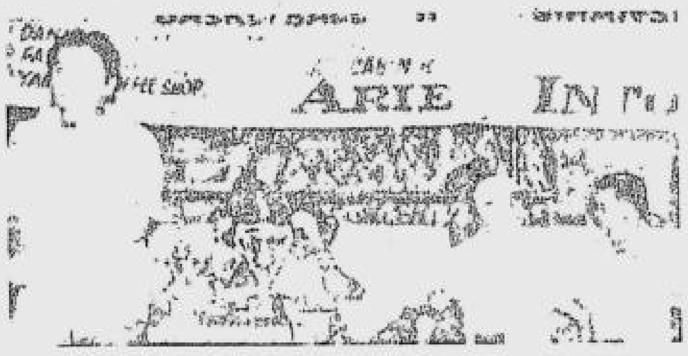
That was one stroke over ICTSI teammate Piccio, who seized control with a 67 Tuesday but faltered with a string of bogeys in the final round, fumbling with a 78 for a 219.

Erstwhile third running Cyna Rodriguez struggled with a three-over 75 and settled for a share of fourth with Amanda Chin, who matched par 72, at 222.

SPORTSWATCH

CKP 168 faces Supertex for title

CKP 168 and Pacific Supertex routed their respective foes recently to set up a title showdown in the 2007 MBT-Danny Espiritu Cup at the RTU gym in Mandaluyong City. Leaning on PBL veteran Chito Jaime, Paulo Malonzo and Alvin Pua, CKP 168 crushed Wangs-RTU, 89-76, for its 11th straight win in the tournament presented by Metro Basketball. The Pacific Supertex Kings also gained the finals by downing Rusty Lopez, 77-61, behind Jon Capobres, Jeff Sanders and Braulio Lim. The best-of-three finals start on Saturday.



CAGE OPENING: Quezon City majority floor leader councilor and sportsman Ariel Inton (with microphone) graces the opening ceremony of the 2007 Inter Basketball Restaurant Tournament recently at the Bernardo Park in Quezon City.

Ritualo leads "Keep the Dream Alive"

KEEP the dream alive, the first-ever basketball camp for adults 25 years old and above unwraps Sept. 7 at the Xavier School Sports Center practice court in Greenhills. Organized by leading PBA swingman Ren Ren Ritualo, the camp will focus on physical conditioning, basic and advanced offensive drills, competitive scrimmages and shooting sessions. For details, call Margaux at 0919-7755804 or 920 0007 or e-mail kdabasketball@yahoo.com.

Dagdayan competing Asian Bodybuilding

MISS Body Fitness Philippines winner Elaine Janis A. Dagdayan will represent the country in the coming 2007 Asian Bodybuilding & Fitness Championships in Shanghai, China. The alluring 27-year-old is leaving on Sunday for the Aug. 28 to Sept, 3 tournament featuring entries from 39 Asian countries. Dagdayan guested in Tuesday's PSA Forum at the Shakey's United Nations Ave. branch where she displayed her svelte figure measuring 34-23-34.

Torre, Mayor grace sports festival

ASIA'S FIRST Grandmaster Eugene Torre and six-time RP Executive champion Dr. Jenny Mayor will be the guests of honor of the Mauban Quezon Power Plant sports festival on Aug. 30-31. They will hold chess clinics, seminars and simultaneous exhibition to the plant employees and chess aficionados of Mauban. For details, call Mayor at 7049775 or 09194782209/09157828666.

7-stag derby at Las Pinas today

THE LAS Pinas 7- stag derby will be held today at Las Pinas Coliseum starting at 11 a.m. with rhe 3-stag elimination starts at 11 a.m. . Tipped as favorites are Gerry Ramos and Primallion brothers who will field the Zamboanga black, sabong idol Patrick Antonio with Sagupaan golden lemons and 2006 Bakbakan champ Gengen Arayata with his prized bulik.

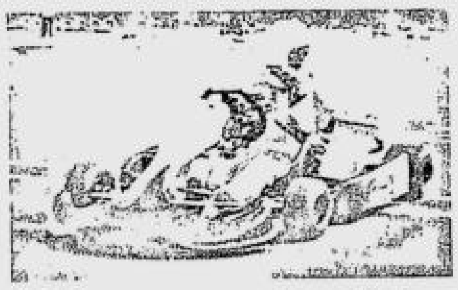
Marcelo rules Cebu ROK

HALFWAY THROUGH THE 2007 SEASON, young ace karter Stefano Marcelo has taken big strides toward achieving his goals this year.

The 15-year-old Marcelo recently bagged the overall crown of the Southern Philippines ROK Series Championship dubbed the Cebu ROK Open at the Kart Zone in Mabolo, Cebu City.

He wrapped up the series winning all four legs. Using a borrowed chassis from Jan Jan Gonzales and a rented engine from Jess Garcia, Stefano proved he could drive anything made available to him as he won all races, including the qualifying heat. Marcelo even made history in the said series, posting the fastest laptime of 26.4 seconds.

"We weren't able to ferry our equipment due to the storm," said Marcelo. "We're grateful to the support of the Cebuanos, particularly Jan Jan Gonzales and Jess Garcia for the equipment plus the great tuning done by Jed Neri in making all these possible."



STEFANO MARCELO: Southern Philippines ROK Series Championship winner.

Dela Rosa shines in skating

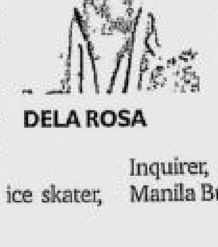
TALISA MARI DELA ROSA OF the Philippines, a 12-year-old sixth grader at St. Paul College-Pasig, bested her rivals from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, China and Japan to emerge as top winner in the artistic freestyle event (FS 3) of the recent Skate Asia 2007.

It was Dela Rosa's second major victory in figure skating, after an outstanding performance in Skate Japan last June.

Only on her second year as an ice skater, Dela Rosa was deemed capable of representing the country's in the Skate Asia 2007 held at SM Mall of Asia.

Gliding gracefully like a professional on SM Mall of Asia's Olympic -sized ice skating rink, dela Rosa got the judges nod with an almost perfect score.

The nine-nation tournament, sanctioned by the Ice Skating Institute of America, was supported by Inquirer, GMA -7, Pepsi, Wave FM, Yehey, Manila Bulletin and Department of Tourism.



DELA ROSA

SBC official hits Mancom

I'VE FOLLOWED HIS 5-YEAR CAREER in the PBA, but I don't recall former Ginebra cager Mike Advani ever losing his temper while playing.

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

Last Tuesday night though, I witnessed Mike, a former Red Lion and now San Beda team manager, really get angry for the first time. It was the day the NCAA management committee (Mancom) officially informed San Beda of the suspension of cager Yousif Aljamal "for failing to notify the Mancom of his inclusion in the PBA rookie draft" held last Sunday at the Market Market in Taguig, Rizal.

Last Tuesday was also the eve of the San Beda-Jose Rizal game at the Arena in San Juan.

***

"What the Mancom did was grossly unfair. Yousif did not commit any violation. There is no rule in the NCAA that prohibits its players from joining the PBA draft while the league is ongoing. They said he shouldn't have joined the Rookie Camp, but the games played there were only exhibition games. It was not a tournament, wherein NCAA players are prohibited to play," Mike said.

I tried to recall if Gabby Espinas of PCU joined the rookie camp last year and Leo Najorda of the San Sebastian Stags, who had turned pro much earlier, but I couldn't remember.

"Yousif played for 5 years in the NCAA and this is how they treat him. We might as well pull out of the league. Instead of disqualifying him, they should be proud that he was the only NCAA cager who was picked this season."

Mike made it clear that his statement was not a threat.

Yousif was picked No. 8 by Air 21 but was later shipped to Talk 'N Text.

***

By Wednesday morning, San Beda had managed to secure a temporary restraining order from the courts. I take this to mean that Aljamal will be playing against JRU later in the day.

Instead of the NCAA Mancom, most of my colleagues in the media and I believe matters such as the Aljamal case should be handled by the commissioner, who is supposed to be neutral because he is not affiliated with any team. Members of the Mancom, on the other hand, have individual interests to protect.

***

Since the program had started and I only caught the tailend, I had no idea how lengthy the speech of OIC Sonny Barrios had been during the PBA draft last Sunday.

That's why I was surprised to read so many letters commenting on how very, very long Sonny's speech was on draft day.

Among others, he acknowledged the national team that participated in Tokushima, Japan, he talked about his job as OIC, he updated the audience on the forthcoming PBA activities, he gave the incoming players a few tips on popularity and longevity, citing the Big J and Alvin Patrimonio, He stressed the importance of fans, and he even had an anecdote in Cabanatuan on Jaworski, who signed autographs for fans in the dark because the promoters had already turned off the lights in the gym.

***

Until Dennis Lucindo of the SBP mentioned it, I did not realize that 11 members of Ateneo's 2002 champion team, coached by Joel Banal, are playing (or recently drafted) in the PBA. These are Enrico Villanueva, Wesley Gonzales, Jec Chia, Larry Fonacier, Chito Bugia, Magnum Membrere, Rich Alvarez, LA Tenorio, JC Intal, Doug Kramer and Macky Escalona. Dennis, also an Ateneo alumnus, stressed that all 11 cagers are college graduates. One of them ---Chito Bugia --- even earning a masters degree in business. No doubt the quality of PBA cagers is improving.

Roxas City hosts Milo marathon Sunday

MORE THAN 4,000 runners are expected when the 31st National Milo Marathon continues its Visayas sorties this Sunday in Roxas City.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions of the 21K race will get berths to the Milo Marathon finals on Nov. 18 aside from the trophies and cash prizes.

According to Pat Goc Ong, AVP Milo Sports Events, a total of P159,600 will be given away as cash prizes.

For the 2007 season, the country's biggest and longest-running foot race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, and the Department of Tourism, will have 24 elimination races, These will be held every Sunday, including the 42K finale on Nov. 18 at the Quirino Grandstand.

According to event coordinator Mark Ortiz and Board Member Rommel Lastimoso, president of the organizing Rotary Club of Roxas City, Rotary International District 3850, Roxas City Mayor Vicente Bermejo and Capiz Governor Vicente Tanco, Sr. have been invited to fire the starting gun at 6 a.m. and grace the awarding rites at 8 a.m.

RUNNERS start in last year's Milo Marathon leg in Roxas City.

SPORTS

BOWLING WORLD CUP: Paulo Valdez rolls his way to the championship during the 2007 Bowling World Cup national finals at the SM Mall of Asia. RYAN LIM

BOWLING WORLD CUP

Valdez claims crown

PAULO VALDEZ ENDED THE giant-killing ways of Benshir Layoso, coming up with a thrilling victory in the second game of their best-of-three series yesterday, to top the men's division of the 2007 Bowling World Cup national finals at the SM Mall of Asia.

Valdez will represent the country in the World Cup this year in St. Petersburg, Russia, along with Liza del Rosario, who topped the women's division after beating Jaime Bautista in two games.

Valdez defeated Layoso, 195-181, in their first game and then nipped the surprise finalist, 215-214, to book himself a ticket to the World Cup.

Layoso entered the last eight only as the No. 8 seed.

But he immediately created waves there as he pulled off the biggest upset by crushing Paeng Nepumuceno's bid to win an unprecedented fifth World Cup crown.

Layoso came back from a game down to oust the top seed Nepomuceno, 177-188, 226-216, 245, 187.

Layoso then brought down the champion of the 2006 World Men's bowling championship in South Korea, Biboy Rivera, in the semifinals in two games, 203-174 and 213-177.

Valdez, on the other hand, needed three games to dispose of Markwin Tee in the men's semifinals, 235-179, 173-201, 246-189.

Del Rosario routed Bautista in the finals, 243-158 and 236-151, after ousting Ellen Ramos, the country's representative to the World Cup two years ago, in the semifinals.

The eight bowlers who qualified for the men's championships were Valdez, Layoso, Tee, Rivera, Nepumuceno, Benny Dytoc, Julius Sy and Vener Reasonda.

In the women's side, the qualifiers were Del Rosario, Bautista, Ramos, Jojo Canare, Alice Cabazor, Kat Cruz, Nida Lagrisola and Lovella Catalan.

Bautista and Canare engaged in a tight semifinal match where the two were tied after the first game. They went into a tiebreak and were deadlocked again after the two extra frames. Bautista finally won after the second tiebreak.

US five stakes clean slate; NBA player dies in car crash

LAS VEGAS—LEBRON JAMES AND Carmelo Anthony have two bronze medals as reminders that the United States no longer wins every basketball game it plays.

Well, except in Olympic qualifying.

Two berths to the 2008 Olympics are available in the FIBA Americas tournament, and the Americans getting one of them might be the closest there is to a sure thing in Vegas.

Unbeaten and practically untested in three previous appearances, the Americans play their tournament opener Wednesday night against Venezuela.

"I know our confidence is sky high right now," Anthony said. "We feel that we can't be beat, but we just have to go out there and prove it."

In Houston, former Minnesota Timberwolves forward Eddie Griffin died last week when his sport utility vehicle collided with a freight train in a fiery crash, the Harris County medical examiner's office said Tuesday.

Investigators used dental records to identify Griffin, 25, who began his tumultuous pro career with the Houston Rockets in 2001. He was waived by the Timberwolves in March.

The five-year National Basketball Association veteran, who was the No. 7 pick in the 2001 NBA draft, had battled alcohol problems since finishing at Seton Hall University. Griffin was suspended by the league for five games in January for violating its anti-drug program.

Houston police said that the driver of the SUV ignored a railroad warning and hit a barrier before striking the moving train about 1:30 a.m. Friday.

The driver's body was badly burned and there was no identification.

Derek Hollingsworth, an attorney who has represented Griffin in criminal cases, said he spoke with Griffin's mother, who was devastated by the news. *AP*

Old PBA system stays, says chair Chua

By Musong R. Castillo

THE COMMITTEE THAT WILL BE tasked to look for the next PBA Commissioner—to use a basketball term—is just one man short, with new chair Tony Chua to recommend the inclusion of ex-chair Ricky Vargas.

"Out of respect to the former chair (Vargas) and because he is truly competent, I will bat for his inclusion," Chua told the INQUIRER over the phone yesterday.

Red Bull's Chua, together with vice chair Joaqui Trillo of Alaska and treasurer Robert Non of Barangay Ginebra, comprises the executive committee, which will be joined by two other members of the board that will look for the next PBA commish to replace Noli Eala.

Several names, including those of former senators Freddie Webb and Robert Jaworski, former San Miguel representative Bert Manlapit, lawyer Chito Salud and grand slam coach and former deputy commissioner Tommy Manotoc have been mentioned as candidates for the league's sixth commissioner.

Chua said that the committee will be finalized when he presides over his first board meeting on Sept. 26-27 in Macau.

"I don't expect to make a lot of changes in my term," Chua also said. "Our PBA will be the same old PBA."

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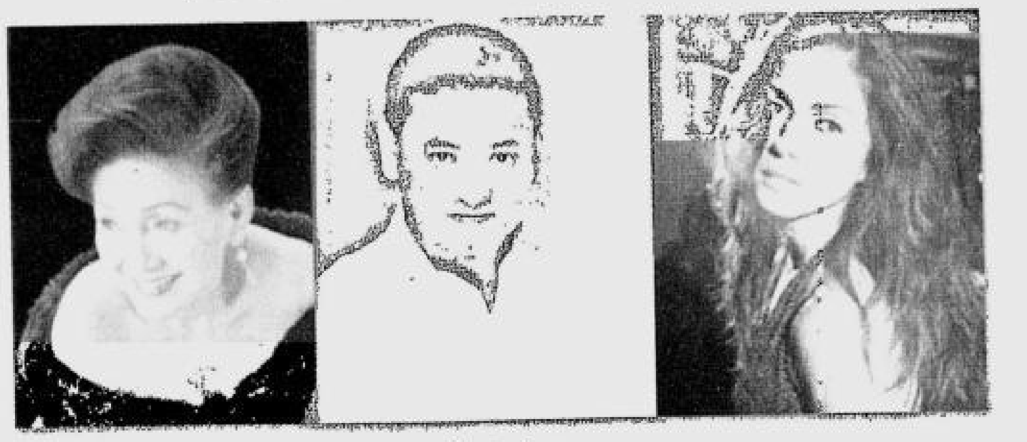

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Another Pacquiao sparmate arrives

CEBU CITY—Another Mexican sparmate arrived here yesterday but Manny Pacquiao still chose to spend four rounds against David Rodela in a tough sparring session.

The new sparmate—Raymundo Beltran Jr.—arrived from Arizona by way of Los Angeles confident that he would be useful in helping whip up Pacquiao into a mean wrecking machine in his rematch against Marco Antonio Barrera on Oct. 6 in Las Vegas.

"I'm a bit tired, but I was happy with the warm welcome I got here," said Beltran. "I'm not yet a world champion, but that's how they treated me when I arrived at the airport."

He admitted that he also worked once with Barrera and said "he couldn't hurt me." Pacquiao, however, is a different animal.

"When he hits me even with just a good jab, I could really feel it," said Beltran, who helped Pacquiao prepare for Erik Morales.

Pacquiao did not run yesterday due to heavy rains, but trainer Buboy Fernandez said it was all right because it was sparring day. *Salven Lagumbay, contributor*

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☐ **Breaktime:** Adding insult to the jury /B2

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PETRON

GMA to oversee revenue agencies

Sets monthly conference with BIR, Customs execs

PRESIDENT ARROYO

By Michelle V. Remo

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo is taking her hands-on management style to the two biggest revenue-collecting agencies of the government as her administration's ability to achieve the fiscal target for 2007 still hangs in the balance.

Every month, the President herself will hold a command conference with officials of the bureaus of Internal Revenue and of Customs to monitor their progress in implementing various revenue-raising measures, a senior finance official said yesterday.

"The President wants to continue with the holding of command conferences with herself presiding. It seems she will be doing that until the improved revenue-collection performance in July becomes sustainable," Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said.

The President started to personally look at the operations of the BIR and the BOC in July following the dismal tax collection performance in the first half.

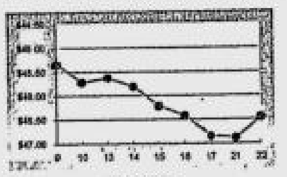
Beltran noted that after the President presided over the command conference, the revenues generated by the two agencies met the official targets in July.

During such a conference, the President asks revenue officials about the detailed results of revenue-enhance-

GMA/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



AUGUST

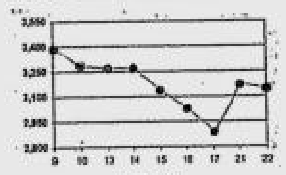
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P46.47 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 22, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



AUGUST

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks close 0.8% lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.8-PERCENT lower yesterday as the market consolidated after posting the biggest single-day gain in seven years on Tuesday, dealers said.

Investors, while still wary about the credit crisis, saw an opportunity on Tuesday to make short-term profits, they said.

The composite index lost 28.06 points to settle at 3,139.46 off the day's low of 3,124.79.

The broader all-share index shed 6.76 points to 2,009.40 points. Out of 148 stocks traded, 51 declined, 47 advanced, while 50 ended flat.

Volume totaled 1.6 billion shares worth P3.7 billion.

"Caution still prevailed as the market continues to be shaky. The fear among investors remains but to a lesser degree," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

De Leon said that after the wild price swings in the last two weeks, the market is now looking for a more stable base.

"It hasn't found it yet, so we can expect more volatility in the days ahead. You will find a mix of bargain hunters and those that have been squeezed or have losing positions."

Some investors have begun assessing stock valuations and were setting aside worries about credit markets, said Jasper Jimenez of BDO Securities Corp. *AFP*

BSP seen to cut rates by October

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE POLICY-MAKING MONETARY BOARD of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is likely to keep its policy interest rates steady during today's meeting but is expected to slash the benchmark rates by 25 to 50 basis points in October to prevent a local credit crunch, US-based financial giant Citigroup said.

"A declining equity market and weakening peso do not justify a policy rate adjustment, in our view," Citigroup economist Jun Trinidad said in an Aug. 20 market commentary.

Trinidad said today's Monetary Board meeting would probably result in unchanged policy rates given last week's relief by the US Fed to ease the US credit crunch. He added that a policy-rate adjustment would be too soon following the removal of the tiering system and the cut in the official overnight rate by 150 basis points to 6 percent last July.

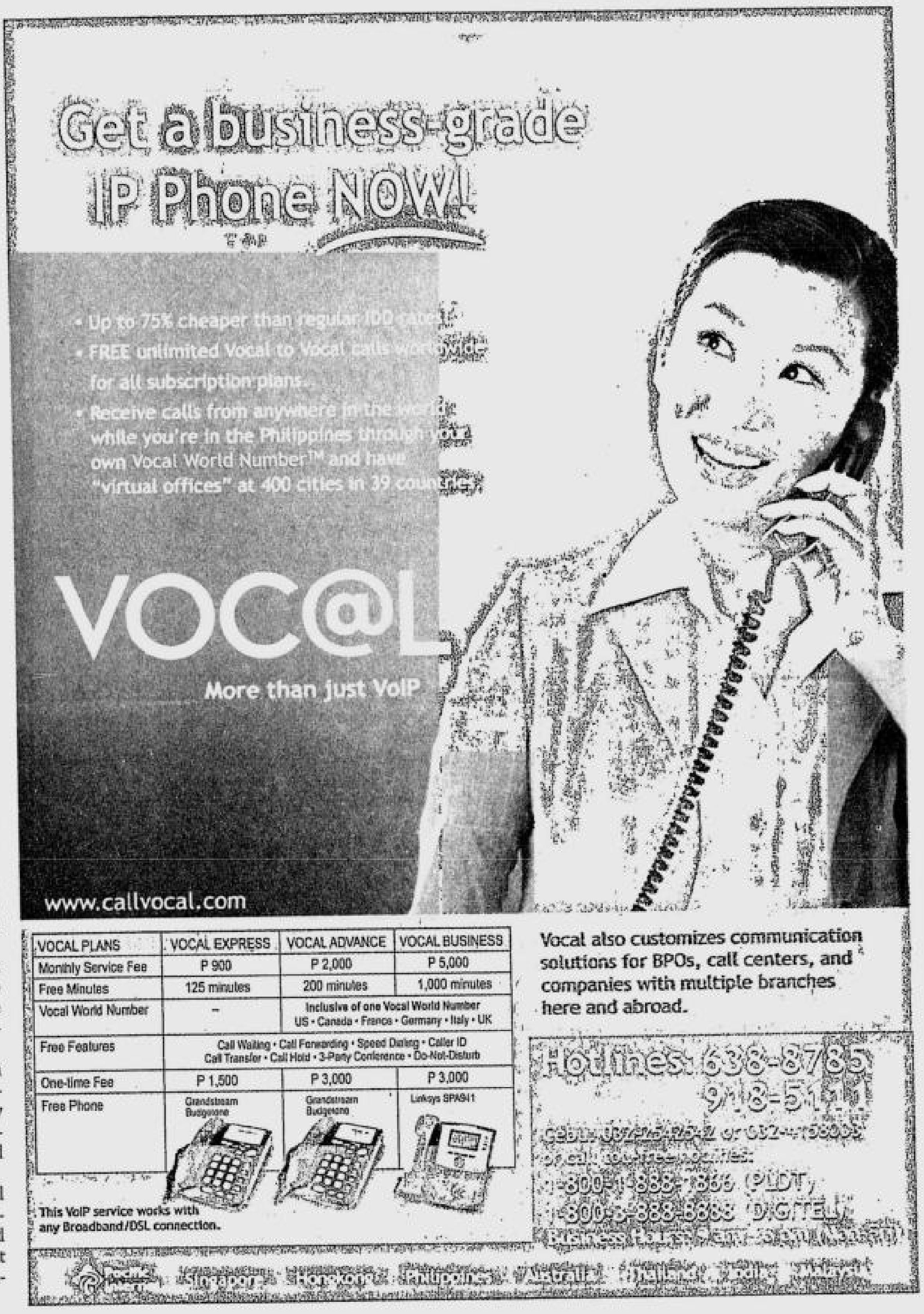
"While BSP may surprise us this week, we think the odds are that a rate adjustment would occur at the (Monetary Board's) meeting in October. We believe persistent global market risk aversion, high real interest rates, sluggish growth of second quarter gross domestic product growth, bank loans and money supply will be among the indicators that can nudge policymakers into making a decision on a policy rate adjustment," Trinidad said.

He said the backdrop of a US Fed rate cut would likely soften strong opposition to policy rate easing but it would not be the main trigger.

The economist said the prevailing risk aversion among offshore investors due to concerns over the problematic subprime mortgage market in the US might have depressed domestic demand.

"This, coupled with the effects of high real interest rates and a public sector tending toward a surplus, may endorse policy rate easing of 25-50 basis points at a Monetary Board meeting in October," Trinidad said.

The Citigroup economist said potential risks of a credit slowdown was already evident in the sharp increase in funds mopped up by the central bank using its overnight borrowings and special deposit account facility.



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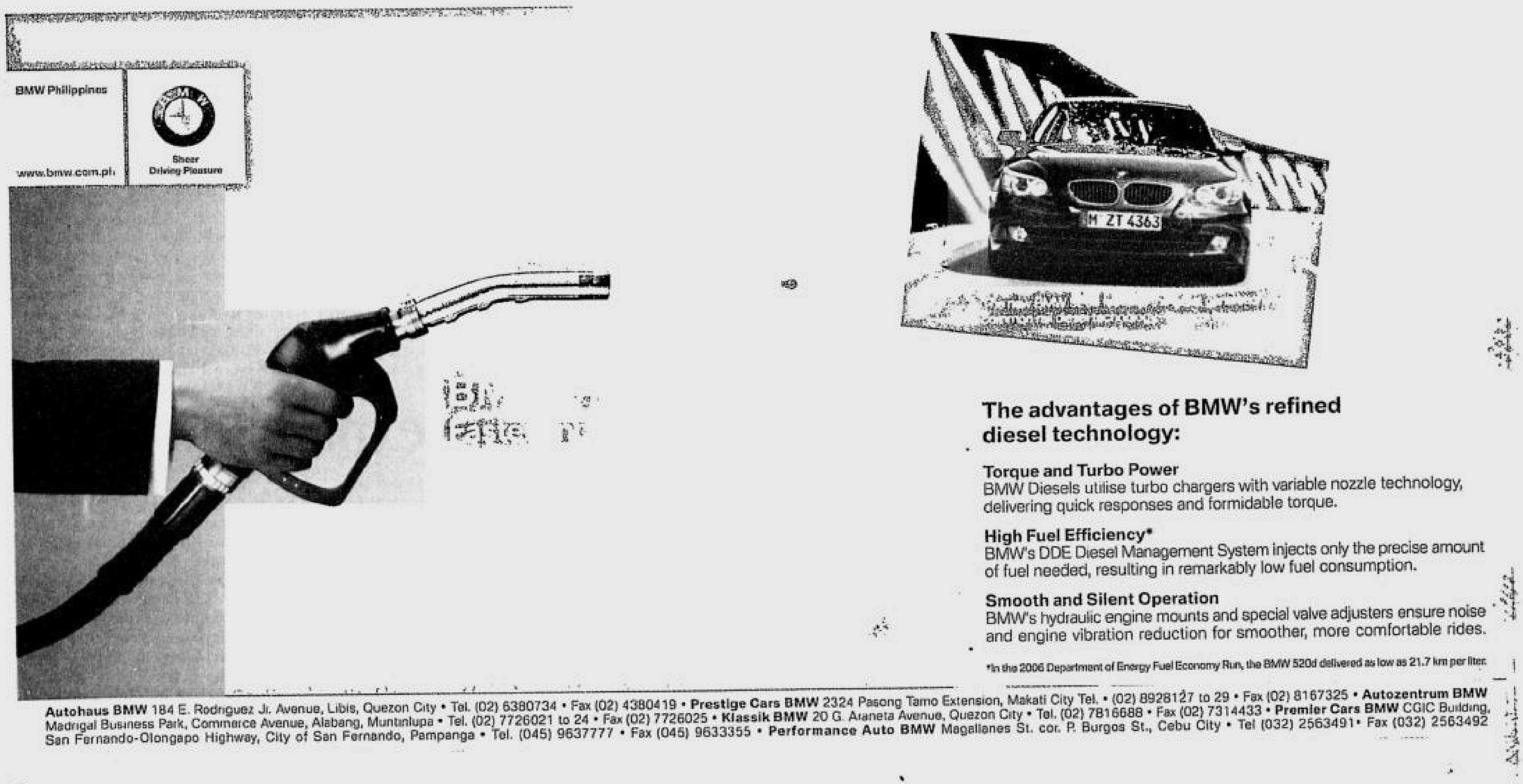

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Gov't to tap up to $300M in ADB loan for LGUs

Program to improve local government's procurement practices, management skills

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES IS SEEKING $200 million to $300 million in loan from the Asian Development Bank to fund programs aimed at enhancing the financial management capability and operational efficiency of local government units.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan, who also serves as acting National Treasurer, told reporters that the ADB, the Philippines' second-biggest source of official development assistance following the Japanese government, was in the process of reviewing the loan request and was expected to disburse the money before the end of the year.

The program to be financed by the ODA will cover the improvement of the procurement practices of local government units, their ability to raise revenues on their own and their management skills.

The Department of Finance earlier said there was a need for local government units to improve their capability to manage their resources and maximize their revenue-generating potentials so they would not remain heavily dependent on the internal revenue allotment (IRA) from the national government.

Under the Local Government Code, LGUs automatically get 40 percent of internal revenues generated by the national government.

The DOF said that while IRA proved to be a beneficial resource for LGUs, local government officials must find ways to augment their cities' or municipalities' earnings to maximize their capability to serve their constituents.

For instance, the DOF said, more LGUs should exercise their potential of raising revenues through flotation of local government bonds.

The amount sought from the ADB will be on top of the $1.466 billion in ODAs that the government originally intended to borrow for 2007. Because the loan for the local government program will exceed the supposed ODA borrowing for the year, Tan said it might be considered part of the 2008 financing program.

The government has opted to borrow more ODAs rather than commercial loans to save on interest charges.

Tan said the ADB loan was expected to be charged with an interest of Libor plus 60 basis points.

The programmed commercial borrowings for this year was placed at $1 billion. The amount was raised in January through the government's flotation of global bonds, which was oversubscribed.

Foreign borrowings, combined with domestic funds raised through the auction of treasury bills and bonds, are intended to finance programs that could not be covered by tax revenues.

Tan said the government was also considering the ADB for a development policy loan, but the amount of which has yet to be finalized.

DPL is intended to provide budgetary support for the government in the implementation of projects of its choice, unlike ODAs which are tied to specific projects.

DENR covers small mining firms, says DOJ

SMALL MINING COMPANIES, INCLUDING the volume of minerals that they may extract, fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Justice said in a legal opinion.

In a letter clarifying an earlier DOJ opinion, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez effectively spurned attempts by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita to lift extraction limits of small mines as enforced by the DENR. Ermita's move, which allegedly favored a southern Palawan mining firm that mined more than five times the maximum allowable limit, has broad repercussions in the mining industry. It would have spurred mining firms to secure small mining permits sans production limits rather than go through the rigorous process of applying for large-scale Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs).

Gonzalez said the environment and natural resources secretary was empowered by law to set the proper annual production limit of a small-scale miner. "This can be derived through the powers given to him under R.A. 7076," the DOJ chief explained.

Dated July 30, 2007 and addressed to then DENR head and now Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes, Gonzalez's letter was in response to Reyes' request for clarification of DOJ Opinion No. 74 series of 2006, which was allegedly erroneously applied by Ermita in February this year to reverse DENR findings of alleged nickel ore over-extraction and other environmental violations by PGMC, a small-scale mining company in southern Palawan.

Citing as basis the questioned DOJ opinion, Ermita said R.A. 7076 or People's Small Scale Mining Act of 1991 "has removed the prohibition or limitation on over-extraction." As such, he reinstated PGMC's Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECCs) and operating permits and even barred DENR agents from enforcing Reyes' orders to shut down PGMC's operations.

But when Ermita's actions drew protests from large mining companies and environmental groups, Malacañang tossed back to the DENR the task of resolving whether PGMC should be stripped of its environmental clearances for extracting nickel ore beyond government-set volume limits.

Pursuing this mandate, Reyes immediately sought clarification of the proper interpretation of the DOJ opinion earlier issued by Gonzalez upon the request of Agusan del Norte Governor Eripe John Amante seeking guidance over small-scale mining activities in his province.

While Gonzalez did not categorically state whether RA 7076 had repealed P.D. 1899 as the law governing small-scale mining activities, he said various sections of RA 7076 vests upon DENR the power to regulate the small-scale mining industry.

Cebu gets $250-M power sector investment pledge

By Abigail L. Ho

FOUR COMPANIES HAVE committed to invest some $250 million in the modernization and expansion of the 70-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power facility and 40-MW diesel-run plant of Toledo Power Corp. in Cebu.

These are Global Business Power Corp. (a member of the Metrobank Group), Aboitiz Equity Ventures, the Garcia family's Vivant Corp. and Taiwan's Formosa Group of Companies.

In a statement, the consortium said Global Power would hold a majority interest in the project.

It added that former National Power Corp. president and Energy Regulatory Commission chief Jesus Alcordo would serve as the president of the consortium. Alcordo is expected to oversee the expansion program of the group in Cebu and in Panay island.

The group's $250-million investment would be spent for both the modernization of existing Toledo Power facilities and the installation of additional capacity to meet rising demand.

Demand for power in Cebu has been growing by 9 percent a year. The demand increase may go higher in the next three years due to the reopening of Atlas Mining in Toledo City and the expansion of the Tsuneishi ship-building facility in Balamban town.

The Toledo Power station currently provides electricity to the Aboitizes' Visayas Electric Co. Inc. and Cebu 3 Electric Cooperative Inc.

In the statement, the newly formed consortium said it was aiming at not only providing adequate power to the province of Cebu, but also at ensuring the reliability and affordability of the supply in the entire Visayas region in the long term.

The Toledo Power station modernization program is already underway, while the expansion project will start in the first quarter of 2008. It is expected to be completed in early 2010.

In a related development, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said he would convince international investors to pour their money into the country's energy sector. He said he would make the call at the Asean Energy Business Forum in Singapore this week.

"I will take the opportunity to tell regional energy sector officials and players how the Philippines has made significant gains in the deregulation of our downstream oil industry, resulting in lower fuel pump prices and savings for the government," he said in a statement yesterday.

Adding insult to the jury

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

TSK TSK—I AM NOT SURE WHETHER the justices of the Supreme Court are jumping for joy with the news that recently broke out in London.

It concerns the case filed before the Supreme Court by foreign firm British American Tobacco, which is the world's second biggest cigarette maker.

The case was even filed against the Arroyo administration. In effect, the vice merchant BAT sued the Republic of the Philippines.

You see, BAT is asking the Supreme Court to declare the law known as "sin tax measure" as unconstitutional.

It's as if, by suing the republic, the multinational company was telling all of us in this country that what we were doing, right here in our own country, was awfully wrong. It's unconstitutional, forgodsakes!

And all for what—so that it can make more of us victims of this deadly vice of smoking?

You see, the case was all about the desire of BAT to cut the excise tax on its "Lucky Strike" brand of cigarettes.

If the Supreme Court throws the "sin tax" out of the window, BAT will pay a much lower excise tax on "Lucky Strike."

That should help BAT sell more cigarettes in this country, ranked as the 12th largest cigarette market in the world.

To effect that, the Supreme Court has to declare as unconstitutional RA 9334, known in media as the "sin tax law," overhauling the excise tax system on vice products such as liquor and cigarettes.

It was actually one of the major tax measures of the Arroyo administration. And BAT now wants the Supreme Court to do away with it. If BAT has its way, it will ruin the fiscal program of the administration. In short, big problem!

According to the news from London, BAT is expecting a Supreme Court ruling to come out late this year.

The question is, how does BAT know that? It sounds to me that the multinational BAT has advance information regarding decisions of the Supreme Court.

Look, even the most respected lawyers in town, or even the most notorious ones, dare not second guess as to when the Supreme Court would come out with a decision, particularly on a case in which the future of the country is at stake.

For one, it's bad for the image of the Supreme Court. It's as if the justices are leaking information to companies like BAT. It gives the impression that big business, particularly multinational companies, can actually talk to the justices.

I don't think the justices will love that. It is insulting.

* * *

WORD IS out that the Arroyo administration's losing candidates in the last elections are now shopping around for positions in the government.

I have only one comment: I think I will throw up.

Look at that—those guys already lost in the elections. This means the voters have already rejected them, not wanting them to become government officials. In a way, the people have spoken.

Do we take it that the Lola at the Palace still wants them in her Cabinet?

If she accommodates those losers, she will only deliver a clear message to the people.

And that is, the President does not care about their sentiments. For why would she put in her Cabinet those whom the people rejected as candidates—and rejected soundly, at that.

Word has it that a couple of those losers, for instance, want positions in state-owned gaming company Pagcor.

It reminds me of the letter once sent by a poor jobless man to the finance secretary, asking for help. He asked the secretary for a job, and since he was not picky at all, could the secretary please find him a position at the Customs or the BIR?

Really, why does the President owe those losing candidates positions in the government?

For that matter, why does the President have to take care of the retiring PNP heads or AFP chiefs by making sure that they also take up top positions in the government?

"Retirement" means precisely that—retirement.

* * *

NOT THAT the President has no valid reason to revamp the Cabinet.

Based on word going around the mining industry, for instance, this Cabinet member is involved deeply in the processing of mining permits and all that.

It so happens that, in his position, the son of his mother really has nothing to do with natural resources—much less approving mining permits.

Word goes around that a group associated with the Cabinet member actually took over operations in a mining claim, which belongs to another company.

In other words, the Cabinet member is now fully committed in the "mining" business—you know, this is "mine," and that is also "mine."

To top it all, for such questionable activities, the lucky guy is said to be enjoying the able support of a triggerman. Or, more precisely, a trigger lady!

She is said to be an experienced lawyer. Rumor has it that she and the Cabinet member are having an encounter of the close kind or, shall we say, the "intimate" kind?

* * *

THE ICSID or the International Centre for Settlement and Investment Disputes, which is an arm of the World Bank, has some interesting comments on the Naia Terminal 3 case, which Piatco and Fraport (as the investors) filed against the Philippine government.

One of them concerns our Anti-dummy Law.

ICSID said that Fraport (the German airport operator) was "consciously, intentionally and covertly structuring its investment in a way which it knew was a violation of the Anti-dummy Law.

"Fraport's equity investment in terms of the statutorily limited percentage in the Terminal 3 project was lawful under Philippine laws.

"Fraport's controlling and managing the investment was not.

"Despite having been advised and plainly understanding this, Fraport secretly designed its investment in the project so as to have that prohibited management and control, in particular by reserving to itself the ultimate authority as a shareholder in Piatco."

But we have been saying that all along.

Rapu Rapu project paid ₱180M in taxes in 1st half

THE RAPU RAPU POLYMETALIC project paid P180 million in direct and indirect taxes in the first half of the year and it was expecting its contribution to its host communities to grow as it ramps up production.

Carlos G. Dominguez, president of Lafayette Philippines Inc., said that aside from taxes, Rapu Rapu's project generated new businesses and thousands of new jobs on the island and in Albay.

"We can and will make a difference to the community. We will operate as a responsible mining company, pay the taxes required by law, and help our residents become more productive and lead better lives," he said.

The project spends millions of pesos monthly in buying local supplies, including food items, and to improve the basic services on the island such as education, sanitation, infrastructure, medical and dental, and environmental protection.

It also provides free electricity to various barangays around the project, which is operated by Rapu Rapu Mining Inc. and Rapu Rapu Processing Inc., and employs close to a thousand employees.

Dominguez said his management, which took over the project last year, had lined up various programs for the communities and its residents.

"We resumed operations only early this year. Even then, I believe we have already made significant contributions to our hosts. We have more in store but some projects take more time to carry out than others. I will make sure that they all materialize," he said.

He added: "Our objective, in partnership with the national and local governments, is to make our communities a better place to live in and to give the residents a better life now. Down the road, we would like to see the children obtain high-quality education and have as much chance to succeed as their urban counterparts."

International hotel chain eyes multi-brand expansion in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EUROPEAN HOTEL GIANT Accor—owner of the Sofitel chain of five-star hotels—is on the lookout for possible new hotel projects or acquisitions in the Philippines in view of the rising tourist arrivals and burgeoning tourism businesses here.

Bernd Schneider, general manager of the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila, said the group was in talks with various potential partners, including hotel/property owners and developers.

"[Accor is] considering expanding its Philippine operations in other cities of Metro Manila and in secondary cities such as Cebu, Davao and Cagayan de Oro," Schneider said in an interview.

Pressed for details, Schneider said "everything is still on discussion."

He explained that Accor was also looking at opportunities in introducing its other brands into the Philippine market, considering the growth shown by the local tourism sector in the past few years.

He said Accor's other chain of hotels include the four-star Novotel hotels and resorts; the three-star Mercure chain; All Season Premier (four-star); All Season (three-star); the "value-for-money" Ibis hotels and the trend-setting Formule 1 budget hotel chain.

Sofitel Philippine Plaza is at present renovating some 200 rooms following Accor's takeover of the sea-front hotel in January 2006.

Schneider said the company had earmarked $20 million for the renovation, including the first batch of 300 rooms done last year.

"Our occupancy rate has increased from the mid-60s (percent) before we took over, to the 70s in the first half of 2007," he said. "We consider that a healthy number."

Moreover, Scheider said room rates had gone up by half in the past 18 months.

The general manager said Koreans continued to be the biggest source of guests for Sofitel Philippine Plaza, followed by the Americans and the Japanese.

Schneider added that Sofitel's Manila operations was banked evenly between business travelers and leisure travelers.

"But being a European group taking over management of this hotel, we have observed an increase in patronage from European guests," he said.

Accor operates 3,800 hotels worldwide, covering all segments—from economy to upper upscale.

Also yesterday, Sofitel launched its new fleet of BMW limousines to provide high-end service to select clients.

According to BMW Philippines, Sofitel's new fleet is unique in the country in that it was the only all premium diesel limousine fleet here.

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THEMED COMMUNITIES

Timberland Heights encourages you to embrace mountain resort living from the moment you set foot on its fertile land. The idea of settling down at Timberland and making it your primary home comes naturally with the cool climate, fresh air, and spectacular view of Makati, Ortigas and Rizal. Situated on elevations of up to 480 meters above sea level, Timberland Heights is twice higher than nearby Antipolo. Here, there are several communities to choose from, making it easy for you to find the home that suits your family's lifestyle.

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Main entrance

Mandala Residential Farm Estates (Lots)

If you appreciate the value of nurturing things that grow, then Mandala Residential Farm Estates is the perfect spot to hone your green thumb.

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- The Agroforestry Center in partnership with the UP-Los Baños Institute of Agroforestry serves both as a technology and training center. It maintains a nursery that showcases a vermiculture facility for producing organic fertilizers.
- The Kumbasari Produce Market is where residents can buy and even sell their homegrown produce.

Banyan Ridge (Lots)

Banyan Ridge is a premiere residential enclave high above the city. No other community outside of Timberland can compare with the scenic views, rolling hills and emerald valley that comprise this Tropical Asian village. With a smaller lot cut compared to Mandala, your life at Banyan Ridge would be cozier and more intimate, making you feel that life unfolds perfectly, as it should be.

The Ranch (House and Lots)

The neutral-colored bricks, wooden floors and relaxed ambience set you up to experience the peak of mountain-resort living at The Ranch. Being on top of the mountain gives you the feeling of being far away from the hustle and bustle of the city. The architecture of the expansive house models are well-suited to the rolling terrain and high altitude atmosphere of San Mateo. The Hartford, Ridgedeck and Upland house models can definitely live up to your family's high expectations.

THE GREENWAYS

Outside of your home, there is much to discover at Timberland Heights. Fifty out of the 677 hectares is a Greenway composed of wooded vales, forested parks, waterfalls and glades that wind around the township. There is also a 24-kilometer nature trail that connects all that nature has to offer and it may be traversed on foot, bike and horseback.

At Timberland, you don't have to go far to explore the possibilities of doing activities like camping, fishing, climbing, and rappelling. Campsites, fishing ponds, swim holes, bird watching decks, and canopy walks can be found just outside your front door.

EXCLUSIVE NATURE CLUB

Families can share quality time together at Timberland Sports and Nature Club, a 9-hectare world class country club that sits on the highest crest of Timberland and has over 12,000 square meters of indoor sports, recreational, and social facilities.

Dads won't have time to think of work with the presence of 6-lane swimming pools, badminton and tennis courts, gym, indoor wall climbing, and pool bars while Moms enjoy a luxurious day at the spa. The spa consists of a dip pool, a sauna, steam rooms and 10 treatment rooms.

Family and friends can enjoy a longer stay as it offers overnight accommodations.

Whatever time or day it is, Timberland Heights will always have a wealth of diversion for the whole family.

COMPLETE TOWNSHIP

Within a short distance from the residential communities, Timberland Heights has set aside areas for a wide range of commercial and business centers, health care centers, churches, and schools. It is designed to make a family's life more convenient in the place they call home.

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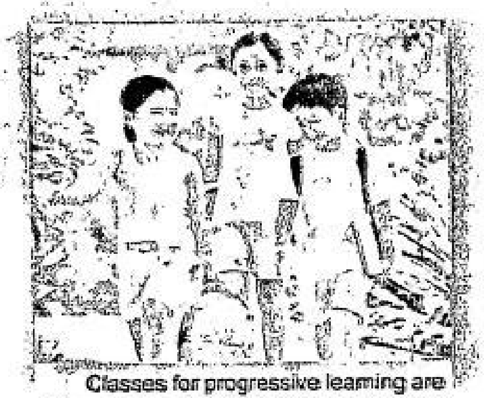

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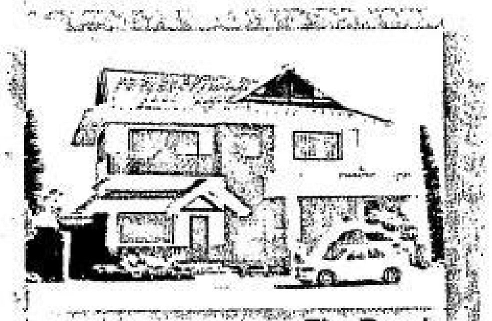
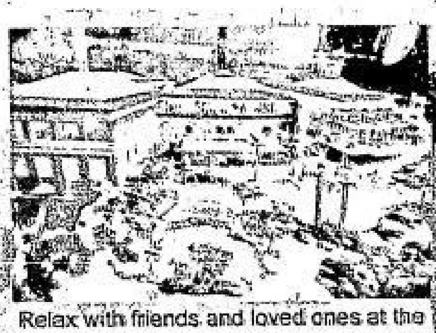


The idyllic houses & lots at **The Ranch** are a breath of fresh air.



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FILINVEST
INVEST ON SOLID GROUND

Metro Pacific turns around with P568-M profit in 1st half

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

Maynilad, Landco were main contributors

METRO PACIFIC INVESTMENT Corp. (MPIC), the local holding firm of Hong Kong conglomerate First Pacific Co., said it posted a turnaround in the first half with a net profit of P568.1 million against a net loss of P522 million a year ago.

This consolidated net income represented those of the parent company and its majority-owned subsidiaries.

MPIC said the income for the first half was attributable mainly to the contribution of Maynilad Water Services Inc. and the improved performance of property arm Landco Pacific Corp.

DMCI-MPIC Water Co. Inc.'s acquisition of 84 percent of Maynilad last Jan. 10 resulted in the consolidation of the utility in DMCI-MPIC starting January.

Maynilad reported a net income of P758 million for the first six months of 2007 and contributed P305.3 million to MPIC's consolidated net profit.

Landco's results for the first semester showed a net profit of P109 million compared with a loss of P129 million last year. Landco contributed P56.2 million in profit to MPIC, compared with a loss of P66 million in the first half of 2006.

Non-recurring income of P403 million was realized during the period due to MPIC's recent investment in Maynilad.

MPIC's core income (or excluding one-time gains) amounted to P165.1 million in the first half, improving from a core net loss of P96.2 million in the same period last year.

At the MPIC level, operating expenses and taxes of P37.6 million were slightly less than the first half of 2006.

"We are quite pleased by the definitive turnaround in MPIC's fortunes during this period. Maynilad is already contributing significant numbers and we look to this strong performance continuing once the company exits from its court-administered rehab status," MPIC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said in a statement.

"This will allow further capital investments to be made to improve its water network and services, thereby raising revenues further. Landco, for its part, is experiencing robust sales in its various developments, and is likely to increase its revenues in the second half as more of these developments are completed," he added.

Meantime, the net income of Medical Doctors Inc. (MDI), which operates and manages the Makati Medical Center, rose 120.4 percent in in the first half of 2007 to P125.2 million from P56.8 million a year ago.

Last May 2007, MPIC subscribed to P750 million of the P961 million in convertible subordinated notes issued by MDI. Proceeds from the convertible notes will fund the construction of a new medical building and to upgrade Makati Med's existing hospital facilities and equipment.

To-date, MPIC has converted into equity P120 million of the notes, equivalent to an 8-percent equity ownership in MDI. On full conversion, MPIC will own approximately 33 percent of Makati Med.

Filinvest profit up 457% to P1.9B

FILINVEST DEVELOPMENT CORP., the holding firm of the Gotianun family, yesterday reported that its net income surged 457 percent to P1.9 billion in the first half of 2007 from P347 million a year ago due mainly to one-time gains from the sale of a subsidiary's shares.

Net revenues reached P4.26 billion, 81-percent higher than last year's P2.35 billion.

The first-half income included P1.3 billion in net extraordinary gain from the sale of Filinvest Alabang Inc.'s shares in Filinvest Land Inc. (FLI) during FLI's follow-on offer last February.

Excluding the one-time gain, FDC's net income would have settled at P639 million, up 84 percent from a year ago.

FAI is the Filinvest Group's commercial property and condominium developer. Its flagship project was the conversion of the 244-hectare Alabang Stock Farm into a mixed-use urban center known as the Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa.

FLI is a subsidiary of FDC and is one of the country's leading real estate developers.

FDC's real estate business contributed P3.4 billion to net revenues in the first half, up 91 percent from 2006.

FDC president Josephine Gotianun-Yap said in a statement that demand for Filinvest's various residential projects, as well as BPO (business process outsourcing) office buildings remained strong due to higher sales of lots, condominium and housing units as well as higher rental rates for BPO buildings at the Northgate Cyberzone.

She said FLI's projects were on track with 10 new affordable and middle-income residential projects schedule for launch this year.

FAI, on the other hand, has seven condominium projects under construction—six residential and one office project.

FDC is also developing a 12-hectare residential resort community on Mactan Island, Cebu, dubbed Seascapes Resort Town, which will have a 2.5-hectare beach club and fully furnished casitas, villas, condominiums. Construction of the beach club and casitas is expected to be completed by end-2008.

Another FDC project is a two-tower residential condominium within Bonifacio Global City, scheduled for launch within the fourth quarter this year.

Financial and banking operations accounted for P812 million of net revenues, 23-percent higher than the year-ago contribution due to higher interest income from consumer loans of East West Bank. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

Vista Land owners to hold shares for a year

SHAREHOLDERS OF VISTA LAND and Lifescapes, led by the family of Senate President Manuel Villar, said they would continue to hold on to shares of the company for at least a year.

In a statement issued to the Philippine Stock Eexchange yesterday, Vista Land director Manuel Paolo Villar said that companies controlled by Villar's family and friends—which hold collectively a total of 5.24 billion shares or 61.54 percent of Vista Land's outstanding stock—have committed to lock up or not to sell their shareholdings.

This is six months longer than the requirement imposed by the underwriters of Vista Land's follow-on share offering to ensure that the company will never be at risk of violating the 40-percent foreign ownership limit for the next 12 months.

The announcement came in the wake of recent concern that a number of PSE-listed companies have breached or were about to breach the 60-40 nationality restriction applicable to companies engaged in partially nationalized business activities. Under Philippine law, companies that own land or are engaged in businesses such as mining or public utilities cannot have more than 40-percent foreign ownership.

Vista Land, however, was not cited by the PSE for any breach. It made the disclosure to inform the public that it was not in breach of any foreign ownership ceilings, company lawyers said.

Vista Land, touted as the country's biggest homebuilder, reported a net income of P1.05 billion in the first half of the year, double the year-ago figure, on the back of higher sales.

Revenues from real estate sales grew 41.3 percent to P4.11 billion from only P2.91 billion while gross profit rose 42.4 percent to P2.06 billion from P1.45 billion.

Vista Land launched 10 projects in the first half of 2007 with a combined land area of 71 hectares equivalent to 2,520 housing units or a total peso value of P6.7 billion.

Of the 10 projects, two were condominium developments in Makati and Bonifacio Global City and two new areas for Communities Philippines.

GMA . . .

From page B1

ment programs. Each revenue district office or customs port is directed to give detailed explanation of collection shortfalls and to provide action plans to improve collection performance. She also reprimands officials of revenue districts and customs ports who give "unacceptable" reasons for their shortfalls.

The BIR, which accounts for the biggest share of state revenues among government agencies, recorded a collection shortfall of nearly P40 billion from January to June. The BOC, which collects taxes and duties on imported goods, was also P13-billion short of its target for the six-month period.

The government posted a budget deficit of P41 billion in the first six months due to the anemic revenue collections, breaching the P31.3-billion ceiling.

But the DOF reported last week that the BIR and the BOC met their revenue collection targets for the month of July. Although much has to be done for the two agencies to catch up with their full-year targets, the July fiscal performance eased fears that the first-half shortfall would continue to worsen.

From January to July, the BIR's collection stood at P393.4 billion while that of the BOC settled at P113 billion. For the entire year, the BIR is tasked to collect P765.8 billion while the BOC should contribute P228.2 billion.

The government is targeting to keep the budget deficit to only P63 billion this year.

CURRENCIES

August 22, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.742666	1.000000	46.7910
Japan	Yen	0.006492	0.008741	0.4090
United Kingdom	Pound	1.471816	1.981800	92.7304
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.095130	0.128092	5.9936
Switzerland	Franc	0.615554	0.828844	38.7824
Canada	Dollar	0.698454	0.940468	44.0054
Singapore	Dollar	0.484833	0.652827	30.5464
Australia	Dollar	0.593705	0.799424	37.4058
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.970146	2.652801	124.1272
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.198018	0.266631	12.4759
Brunei	Dollar	0.483255	0.650703	30.4470
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000079	0.000106	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.022851	0.030769	1.4397
UAE	Dirham	0.202224	0.272294	12.7409
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.346500	63.0041
Korea	Won	0.000787	0.001060	0.0496
China	Yuan**	0.097840	0.131742	6.1643
ArgentinaPeso	0.235207	0.316706	14.8190	
Brazil	Real	0.365323	0.491908	23.0169
Denmark	Kroner	0.134392	0.180959	8.4673
India	Rupee	0.018109	0.024384	1.1410
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212494	0.286123	13.3880
Mexico	New Peso	0.066682	0.089787	4.2012
New Zealand	Dollar	0.515704	0.694396	32.4915
Norway	Kroner	0.124971	0.168274	7.8737
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012276	0.016529	0.7734
South Africa	Rand	0.100933	0.135906	6.3592
Sweden	Kroner	0.106558	0.143480	6.7136
Syria	Pound	0.014491	0.019512	0.9130
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022512	0.030312	1.4183
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000346	0.000466	0.0218

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Aug. 21, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of Aug. 21, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 22, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	5.4	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	9.2	9.2	9.2	9.2	25,000
73	32.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	58	58.5	58	58	657,200
73.5	51.5	Bank of the Philippine Islands	59	59.5	57.5	59	1,540,600
935	630	China Banking Corp.	820	820	810	810	520
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc	0.39	0.4	0.36	0.37	4,570,000
75.5	36.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	51.5	51.5	50	50.5	5,301,600
65.5	32.5	Philippine National Bank	44.5	45.5	43	45.5	160,200
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	59.5	60	59.5	60	2,500
39.57	14.35	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	24	24	23.25	23.75	3,897,900
90	47	Security Bank Corp.	69	69	68.5	69	1,324,500
66	41.54	Union Bank of the Philippines	51.5	55	51.5	55	74,700
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.04	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2	2.04	1.92	1.94	40,501,000
16.25	1.84	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.25	10.5	354,100
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.8	650,000
42	28	First Metro Investment Corp.	41	41	41	41	5,000
1,725.00	1,555.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,690.00	1,720.00	1,690.00	1,720.00	1,540
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.15	3.15	3.05	3.15	3,322,000
3.1	1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	2	2	2	2	1,000
1,005.00	219	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc	740	745	740	745	2,830
2,250.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,150.00	2,160.00	2,150.00	2,150.00	640
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	2,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	4.45	4.55	4.35	4.55	3,937,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	320,000
70	42	First Gen Corp.	60.5	61	60.5	60.5	636,600
92	41	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	73	75	72.5	75	167,200
15	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	5,423,700
116	15.75	Manila Electric Co. "A"	88	93	87	93	350,100
118	25	Manila Electric Co. "B"	89.5	93.5	86.5	93	1,108,400
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	36,743,000
6.5	3.75	Petron Corp.	5	5.2	4.95	5.2	1,545,000
14.75	6.7	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.5	87,000
1.9	0.92	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	35,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.9	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	423,000
2.95	1.86	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2	2.18	2	2	49,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24	24	24	24	3,000
61	31.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53	53	52	52.5	922,300
9	4.6	Pancake House Inc.	9	9	8.9	8.9	2,000
1.96	0.76	RFM Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	20,000
4.05	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.16	2.16	2.1	2.1	37,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	61.5	62	61	61	48,900
88	60	San Miguel Corp. "B"	63.5	63.5	61	61.5	220,500
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp	16	16	16	16	1,176,800
0.55	0.2	Vitarich Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	50,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.57	EEI Corp.	3.15	3.4	3.1	3.4	830,000
21.5	6	Federal Chemicals Inc.	9	9.1	9	9	1,200,000
9.2	4.5	Holcim Philippines Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	17,000
2	0.27	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.97	0.95	0.95	1,260,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.1	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.1	4.1	4	4	845,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
7.4	5.1	Panasonic Manufacturing Phils. Corp.	7	7.1	7	7.1	3,000
0.75	0.085	Picop Resources Inc.	0.33	0.36	0.32	0.35	32,760,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.8	A. Soriano Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	9,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc	0.075	0.0775	0.0725	0.0775	28,200,000
1.28	0.21	APC Group Inc.	0.56	0.6	0.55	0.59	32,230,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.9	3.1	2.9	3.05	3,911,000
3.45	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3.25	3.4	3.2	3.4	680,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.009	10,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	1,129,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	88,800,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	4.05	4.25	3.95	4.25	50,081,000
1.38	0.49	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.66	0.66	420,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	1.88	1.94	1.88	1.94	1,244,000
590	341.67	Ayala Corp.	457.5	457.5	440	455	118,020
14.5	7.04	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	12	12	12	12	2,900
5.8	1.06	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4	4.2	3.8	4.2	24,313,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.4	2,406,000
6.9	1	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.6	3.7	27,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	660,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	400,000
14.5	5.6	JG Summit Holdings Inc	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.3	88,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.54	1.66	1.5	1.5	34,000
0.95	0.17	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	10,000
11.5	0.33	Multitech Investments Corp.	3.75	4.25	3.55	4.2	7,637,000
0.75	0.17	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	580,000
452.5	202.36	SM Investments Corp.	345	345	335	335	114,020
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.3	0.32	0.29	0.32	22,930,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc	0.31	0.33	0.31	0.33	3,770,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.1	1.16	1.1	1.16	31,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	6.4	6.9	6.4	6.8	209,000
1.06	0.32	Araneta Properties Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	10,000
19.25	10.83	Ayala Land Inc.	14	14	13.5	13.5	32,830,300
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.06	1.12	1,396,000
4.7	2.18	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	10,000
2	1.2	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp."A"	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	7,000
0.86	0.29	Crown Equities Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	2,200,000
0.99	0.45	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.65	0.68	53,120,000
0.47	0.048	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.2	0.215	29,570,000
1.48	0.4	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	8,344,000
2.44	1.07	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.44	1.48	23,128,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	6,600,000
4.4	1.54	Megaworld Corp.	3.1	3.15	3	3.1	41,222,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	300,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty & Holdings Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	1,010,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	10,000
23	12	Robinson Land Corp.	16.5	17	15.75	17	2,623,200
5.9	1.37	SM Development Corp.	3.7	3.7	3.55	3.55	3,286,000
13.5	6.08	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.25	13,460,100
3.25	0.8	Shang Properties Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	252,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.53	0.56	0.52	0.56	2,250,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.27	4,980,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	5	5.1	4.95	5.1	5,106,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	15.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31.5	31.5	31	31	4,600
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.4	519,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.22	479,000
1,445.00	970	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,315.00	1,335.00	1,315.00	1,330.00	59,010
2,820.00	1,890.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,520.00	2,530.00	2,510.00	2,515.00	210,390
7.9	3.7	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	6.4	6.6	6.3	6.6	1,277,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	4,840,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.1	9.6	9.1	9.6	20,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.4	8.7	8.3	8.7	4,789,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.03	0.031	0.029	0.03	52,800,000
29.5	8	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	13.5	16.5	13.5	16.5	401,400
0.32	0.043	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.175	0.175	32,900,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.049	0.049	0.047	0.049	114,500,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.55	2.7	2.48	2.5	1,520,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
1.92	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	14,000
6.8	2.95	Asian Terminals Inc.	4.65	4.65	4.55	4.55	71,000
34.5	14.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	31	31	30	30.5	55,900
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	495,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.52	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	420,000
0.98	0.28	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	0.45	0.52	0.45	0.52	6,710,000
1.2	0.42	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.78	0.79	0.78	0.78	2,910,000
		EDUCATION					
950	650	Far Eastern University Inc.	850	850	850	850	11,690
3.7	2.65	iPeople Inc	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	138,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp	4.4	4.4	4.25	4.25	570,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	10.5	11	10.5	10.75	106,100
30	9.9	Paxys Inc	13	13	13	13	679,100
		MINING					
0.018	0.008	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	85,000,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	6,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	11.75	12	11.25	12	961,900
3.1	0.33	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	1.3	1.5	1.24	1.44	163,323,000
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	60,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	510,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	84,000,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	100,000,000
30	1.2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	9.1	10.25	8.6	10.25	4,208,000
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	16,400,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5	5	4.9	4.95	3,753,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27	27	27	48,800
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	100,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.12	1.16	1.1	1.14	3,317,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.35	0.37	7,140,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	117,900,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.019	28,200,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	89,300,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	842.11 DOWN	2.83	62,395,180	695,672,110.00
Industrial	4,372.87 UP	16.41	90,220,500	629,032,030.00
Holding Firms	1,747.20 DOWN	19.34	279,793,940	504,010,545.00
Property	1,400.38 DOWN	28.82	231,954,600	889,896,345.00
Service	1,517.53 DOWN	4.80	226,500,190	718,910,520.00
Mining & Oil	4,986.31 DOWN	21.47	704,227,700	310,693,765.00
All Shares Index	2,009.40 DOWN	6.76		
PSEI	3,139.46 DOWN	28.06		
		GRAND TOTALS	1,595,092,060	3,748,215,315.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

Asean BPOs urged to invest more

Integration needed to battle China, India

By Ronnel W. Domingo

BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING INdustries in Southeast Asia were urged to add more "local" operations and seek partnerships amid economic integration.

Speaking before the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Investment Forum held yesterday at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez said BPO industries should take on the challenges and seize opportunities by competing as one bloc against major players like India and China.

Hernandez noted that companies in Asia, especially in Southeast Asia, were particularly open to outsourcing information technology solutions and increasingly more so to outsourcing of financial and accounting functions, and human resource management.

"It may be imperative for providers of such outsourcing services—which focus exclusively on serving customers in the United States and Europe—to start looking closer to home instead of concentrating exclusively on Eastern markets that are already getting saturated," he said.

Further, Hernandez cited the findings of a study made by Canada-based research firm XMG Inc., which showed that Asean countries could emerge as strong contenders to India and China for share of the global outsourcing services if they act as a single market.

According to XMG, the attainment of the Asean's goal of economic integration—at least in the IT sector—would be helped if members pursued the principle of turning the diversity that characterizes the region into opportunities for business complementation and making the Asean a more dynamic and stronger segment of the global supply chain.

Asean member countries have mostly tried to out-compete each other in the global marketplace but intra-Asean trade still dwarfs that of trade with non-Asean countries, the study showed.

Also, XMG research findings pointed out that each of the Asean countries have its own special niche in terms of manpower supply, while highlighting that infrastructure development and maturity are relatively the same across countries.

Oil company, Chinese gov't in cassava deal

By Abigail L. Ho

EASTERN PETROLEUM CORP. AND CHINA's Guanxi State Farm Bureau have entered into a cassava crop export agreement worth an initial $6 million.

Under the agreement, Eastern Petroleum will get its initial feedstock for a planned 100,000-liter-a-day ethanol plant from China through the Guanxi State Farm Bureau.

The imports will continue until Eastern and Guanxi get enough cassava from plantations in the Philippines.

Eastern chair Fernando Martinez said the joint venture had already secured close to 5,000 hectares of land in General Santos City, Saranggani and South Cotabato to be used as cassava plantations.

Under the agreement with the land consolidators and farmer groups, Eastern Petroleum and Guanxi will jointly shoulder the P150 million required for farm preparation and other necessary inputs.

Cassava produced from the identified plantations, he said, would be enough to provide feedstock for the ethanol plant to be constructed by late next year.

This plant would entail an investment of between $15 million and $20 million, he said.

Martinez also said Eastern Petroleum has been encouraging farmers in various parts of Mindanao to grow cassava.

He said Eastern and Guanxi were looking at expanding cassava plantations to 500,000 hectares by the fifth year of the ethanol plant's operation.

These 500,000 hectares of feedstock would be enough to produce up to 2 million MT of ethanol, enough to cover the total domestic requirement of 400,000 MT with more than enough surplus for export, he said.

Eastern and Guanxi have plans to develop four to five ethanol plants over the next two to five years.

Martinez said landowners and farmer groups in Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, Laguna, Batangas, Pampanga, Zambales and Cagayan Valley were also interested in growing cassava.

Shell nets ₱2.2B in H1

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

OIL REFINER PILIPINAS SHELL Petroleum Corp. said it posted a net income of P2.2 billion in the first half, 37.5 percent more than the P1.6 billion posted in the same period last year, the company said in a report to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The increase was attributed to a higher sales volume during the period and lower expenses due partly to a stronger peso.

The company's sales volume in the first half of the year hit 2.96 billion liters, 3 percent higher than 2.87 billion liters in the same period last year.

Shell said it was able to grow its business despite an industry contraction of 1 percent as of April this year through sales and marketing programs and acquisition of new key accounts.

Shell is the country's second largest petroleum distribution company behind Petron Corp., where the government has a stake.

Expenses in the first half of the year, meanwhile, decreased due to lower bad debt provision and depreciation resulting from changes in asset life, the company said.

Pilipinas Shell also said that during the year, crude costs averaged $62.20 a barrel, versus the $63.68 last year for a 2-percent drop.

The Philippine peso, on the other hand, strengthened against the US dollar and has settled at an average of 47.75 as of June year, from 52.06 last year.

For this year, a budget of P1.6 billion has been approved for capital expenditures, which will be allocated for refinery, depot, retail, commercial and LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) operations.

DA to put agri center in Caraga

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE yesterday inked an agreement with Catholic organization Caritas Filipinas to put up an agriculture resource center in the Caraga region to help increase the yield of Mindanao farms.

Under the agreement, the Sustainable Agriculture Resource Center (SARC) for the Caraga region will identify project sites where organic farm practices will be employed to help increase farmers' incomes.

The planned facility, likely to be put up in Butuan City, will also ensure the sustainability of the island's agricultural resources.

According to the agreement, the SARC will serve as "co-partner and as a show-window for the farmers and will provide whatever assistance to prospective cooperators" under the project.

"We are proud of this agreement with Caritas because this will help fulfill our goal of promoting agricultural development through a bottom-up self-reliant farming system approach," Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said.

He added that this project will emphasize social justice, equity, productivity and sustainability in the use of agricultural resources.

The DA and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines-National Secretariat for Social Action-Episcopal Commission and Social Action-Justice and Peace, through Caritas Filipinas, will jointly set up the SARC.

According to the memorandum of agreement, the DA, through the Bureau of Soils and Water Management will provide technical aid on topographic, land use, soils and agro-socio-economic surveys for the preparation of soil conservation farm plans.

The DA has likewise pledged to promote organic agriculture and introduce biogas production from farm wastes under the project.

For its part, Caritas will implement the program and disseminate technologies to farmers to help ensure the success of the program.

Caritas will also provide funds for crop production, livestock raising and freshwater fish production as stated under the agreement.

Transco attracts bidders

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIAbilities Management Corp. has received expressions of interest from nine companies wanting to bid for the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession.

PSALM president Jose Ibazeta, however, declined to name the potential bidders, refusing even to confirm whether bidders during the last auction would participate in the bidding set for the end of the year.

During last year's auction, only three groups pre-qualified to bid for the concession agreement.

These included the group composed of Citadel Holdings Corp. (60 percent) and Italy's Terna SPA (40 percent); the consortium of local firm Triratna Holdings Corp. (60 percent), Malaysia's Tenaga Nasional Berhad (5 percent) and Newbridge Asia IV LP (35 percent); and the group of Monte Oro Grid Resources Corp. (60 percent) and China's State Grid Corp. (40 percent).

Local firm Triratna is represented by SM Investments vice chair Henry Sy Jr., United Laboratories Corp. chair Joselito Campos Jr. and San Miguel Corp. president Ramon Ang.

A Canadian group and an Indian company had likewise expressed interest in bidding for the Transco concession, PSALM vice president for asset management and electricity trading Froilan Tampinco had said.

PSALM issued its latest bid invitation for the Transco concession last July 23.

The bidding package would be released starting Aug. 1, and interested parties had until 5 p.m. on Aug. 24 to submit their expressions of interest.

The deadline for the submission of prequalification proposals had been scheduled for Sept. 21, with a pre-bid conference to be conducted on Nov. 5. All final bids should be in by 10 a.m. on Dec. 12.

The bbidding for the 25-year Transco concession was declared a failure for the third time last February when only one of the three pre-qualified bidders—the Citadel-Terna consortium—submitted its final technical and financial bid by the noon deadline.

Abigail L. Ho

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Province of Southern Leyte
CITY OF MAASIN
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The City Government of Maasin through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites all interested supplier, dealers, distributors and contractors to apply for eligibility and to submit bids for the fabrication and delivery of one (1) unit feedmill mixer and hammermill with Approved Budget of the Contract of Two Million Eight Hundred Thousand pesos, Philippine currency (PhP 2,800,000.00).
2. The Bids and Awards Committee will hold a Pre-bid Conference on Thursday, August 23, 2007 at ten o'clock in the morning at the City Conference Room, City Hall, Maasin City.
3. Interested bidders may obtain a complete set of bidding documents from August 24, 2007 to September 13, 2007 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 0.1% of the Approved Budget of the Contract to the City Treasury Services, Maasin City.
4. Deadline for the submission of bids shall be on Thursday, September 13, 2007 at ten o'clock in the morning at the City Conference Room, City Hall, Maasin City. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives.
5. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provision of RA No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
6. The City Government of Maasin assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate and indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of bid. The Bids and Awards Committee of the City of Maasin reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the government.
7. For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 570-8608 or 570-8824.

(Sgd.) CRISPIN M. ARONG, JR.
Chairman

(PDI – August 23, 2007)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract
Supply and delivery of the following computer and office supplies:	
1. 268 pcs. Toner, Cartridge for Brother Laserjet Printers, HL6050/HL6050DN/HL6050D TN-4100	P 1,090,760.00
2. 120 units Drum Unit for Brother Laserjet Printers. HL6050/HL6050DN/HL6050D DR4000	739,200.00
3. 1,125 pcs. Ink Cartridge HP Business Inkjet 1200, CYAN HP C4836A*	1,625,625.00
4. 1,100 pcs. Ink Cartridge HP Business Inkjet 1200, MAGENTA HP C4837A	1,589,500.00
5. 915 pcs. Ink Cartridge HP Business Inkjet 1200, YELLOW HP C4838A	1,322,175.00
6. 2,700 pcs. Compact Disc-Recordable (CD-R) 700 MB, individual case (jewel case, transparent)	40,500.00
7. 1,070 pcs. Cover, Morroco, A4, light blue (per BSP sample)	P17,125.40 (Lot Price)
8. 475 pcs. Cover, Morroco, A4, golden yellow (per BSP sample)	
9. 610 pcs. Cover, Morroco, A4, green (per BSP sample)	
10. 755 pcs. Cover, Morroco, A4, beige (per BSP sample)	
11. 1,065 pcs. Cover, Morroco, 8-1/2" x 13", light blue (per BSP sample)	
12. 2,925 pcs. Cover, Morroco, 8-1/2" x 13", green (per BSP sample)	
13. 2,185 pcs. Foldcote, white, 8-1/2" x 13" caliper 18, (per BSP sample)	5,790.85
14. 35 reams Paper, Bond A4, yellow (per BSP sample)	4,165.00
15. 75 reams Paper, Bond A4, green (per BSP sample)	8,925.00
16. 250 sheets Paper, Wrapping Kraft, 35" x 48", 125 gsm (per BSP sample)	1,500.00
17. 30 rolls Paper Thermal, 216mm x 100m premium quality (per BSP sample)	6,000.00
18. 1,190 sets Correction Fluid, 20ml, w/thinner bond white, environmental friendly (per BSP sample)	58,310.00
19. 350 rolls Cotton, Absorbent white 100G/roll (per BSP sample)	10,500.00
20. 160 rolls Ribbon, adding machine, black/red, double spool (per BSP sample)	2,560.00
21. 6,735 pcs. Envelope, Expanding, for legal size papers/documents w/string, w/printing of BSP logo/letterhead, parts should be well pasted/glued (per BSP sample)	60,615.00
22. 7,600 sets Cover Looseleaf, 8-1/2" x 14" PVC, gamuza cover, with counter roll inside cover, color green (per BSP sample)	304,000.00
23. 10,700 pcs. Folder, Expanding pressboard for legal size papers/documents, plain, green, width - 9-1/2"; length - 15"; thickness (expansion) - 1-1/2" (per BSP sample)	267,500.00
24. 1,350 sets Corrugated File Box - Material: Kraft 200# psi, B-flute, die-cut, no staple and tape but with 1-1/4" flaps glued inside two opposite vertical sides of the body; Dimensions Body - 15"L x 12"W x 10"H with handle (hole) 1-1/4" x 3 in.; Liner – 35"L x 12"W; Cover - 15-14"L x 12-1/4"W x 2"H with inserts/slits 3 sets (2-1/4" in) on both sides only (length)	87,750.00
	P7,242,501.25
Delivery Period: Within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the approved contract	

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of the item/s to be bid out. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	starting 23 August 2007
2. Pre-bid Conference	31 August 2007 - 3:30 P.M.
3. Opening of Bids	18 September 2007 - 2:00 P.M.
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 or 0.05% of the total ABCs of the item/s to be bid out, whichever is higher, to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JOAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI--Aug. 23, 2007)

Project Reference # Admin-007-001
Materials and Supplies Inventory
Silang, Cavite

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *SILANG WATER DISTRICT*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	: Supply of Water Meters/GI/CI Fittings for New Water Service Connections of Silang Water District
Location	: E. Gonzales St., Silang, Cavite, 4118
Brief Description	: Materials and Supplies for SWD Inventory Warehouse
Funding Source	: Corporate Budget for the Contract Approved by SWD Board of Directors
Contract Duration	: September 15, 2007 to December 31, 2007
Delivery Period	: September 30, 2007

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 20-27, 2007
2. Pre-bid Conference	August 28, 2007 (2:00PM)
3. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility (*If single-stage bidding is used, delete this activity*)	NA
4. Opening of Bids (Deadline of Submission 12:00PM)	September 10, 2007 (1:00 PM)
5. Bid Evaluation	September 12, 2007
6. Post-qualification	September 14, 2007
7. Notice of Award	September 18, 2007

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) to the Silang Water District Cashier.

The Silang Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) BONIFACIO B. DELA CRUZ
Acting BAC Chairman-OIC

(PDI--Aug. 23, 2007)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS

The National Housing Authority (NHA) is inviting prospective developers/proponents for the planning, development and disposition of the 30-hectare property in North Triangle Subdivision, Diliman, Quezon City, bounded on the North by MRT III Depot and TRINOMA, Northeastern portion by North Avenue, South by Manila Seedling Foundation, Inc., and Southwestern portion by EDSA. The prospective developers/proponents must have satisfactorily completed at least two (2) mixed-use development and marketing projects of prime properties of similar nature as to type and cost of the project under consideration. The project likewise includes provision of funding for the relocation of informal settlers thereat and development of offsite resettlement area.

Checklist of requirements for eligibility of the joint venture developers/proponents may be obtained upon submission of a letter of intent addressed to the Chairman, BAC, National Housing Authority, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php1,000.00. The eligibility documents are available for examination at the BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City. The BAC Secretariat may be contacted at Tel. Nos. 929-80-16 or 926-58-16.

Deadline of submission of eligibility documents shall be on August 31, 2007, not later than 10:00 a.m. at the Operations Center 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building.

Prospective developers/proponents shall be evaluated based on financial, technical, marketing and management capabilities and track record.

Bid documents and Terms of Reference shall be issued only to pre-qualified proponents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php50,000.00. Other schedule of bidding activities shall be informed through bid bulletin/s.

Minimum Bid Price is **P9.4415 Billion** (this cost includes rawland cost).

The developer/proponent with the most advantageous proposal to the Government shall be selected as the winning bidder for the project.

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bid offers, waive any required formalities and accept offers/applications most advantageous to the interest of the Government/Authority.

(Sgd.) **FROILAN R. KAMPITAN**
Assistant General Manager
BAC Chairperson

(PDI--August 16 & 23, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Provisional Receipts (PR) No. 001703-001900 given to Mrs. Rachile Molina Denila, former Public Safety Mutual Benefit Fund, Inc. **(PSMBFI)** Regional Extension Officer (REO) in Police Regional Office 10 were lost. Any transaction covered by those PR# will not be honored by the PSMBFI.

(PDI - August 23, 2007)

SILANG WATER DISTRICT
SWD-ENGPROJ-2007-03

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The *SILANG WATER DISTRICT*, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	: Drilling of Four (4) Production Wells
Location	: Silang, Cavite
Brief Description	: Furnishing of all materials, (including screens and casings) labor, tools, equipment, transportation (including fuel, power, air and water) and any other means necessary to complete all works required to drill.
Contract Duration	: Seventy Five (75) calendar days upon receipt of notice to proceed

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) Including Application for Eligibility	August 22-28, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	August 22-28, 2007
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements (last day)	August 30, 2007 12:00PM
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	August 31, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 3-10, 2007
6. Pre-bid Conference	September 11, 2007 2:00PM
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	September 24, 2007 1:00PM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at *Silang Water District, Annex Administration Building, E. Gonzales St., Silang, Cavite*, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of *One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00)* to the *Silang Water District* Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of *Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)* to the *Silang Water District* Cashier.

The *Silang Water District* assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) BONIFACIO B. DELA CRUZ
Acting BAC Chairman - OIC

(PDI--Aug. 23, 2007)

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635-0219, 635-0220

Setting up an NGO

THE SEMINAR "HOW TO SET UP AND MANAGE an NGO or foundation" is intended for individuals, existing NGOs, cooperatives, foundations, LGUs, and corporate organizations who want to help disadvantaged members of our community. It will be held on Aug. 29, from 1-5 p.m. at Richville Hotel, 286 Edsa, Mandaluyong City. For more details and registration, call Tritium Knowledge Center Publishing at 531-0084 or 0919-2299777; 0919-2299780; and 0915-7804379 or email tritium@pldtdsl.net or tkcp_ph@yahoo.com.

TKCP is the publisher and distributor of the resource book: "Proposal Writing Guidebook, 2nd edition," and the "Directory of International Funding Organizations, NGOs, Corporate Donors, and Relief Agencies, Revised edition 2007."

Anib supports Yap proposal

AN ORGANIZATION OF GRAINS BUSINESSmen is supporting the call to give the President emergency powers to answer the need for an immediate rice importation in times of drought.

Mr. Robert Hernandez, president of the Alyansa Ng Industriyang Bigas, Inc (Anib) said the recommendation of Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap to give President Arroyo emergency powers is necessary since the country is experiencing an erratic weather. "There's a possibility that a rice shortage may occur if this situation is not given immediate attention. The current rice stocks may not be enough to feed the entire country if the drought continues," Hernandez said.

The Anib president said, however, that such emergency powers should be resorted to when there's a clear indication of an apparent lack of rice supply. "We don't want the situation to worsen but we also do not want to see unscrupulous traders taking advantage of the situation," he said.

Secretary Yap has recommended that emergency powers be obtained from Congress to order the immediate importation of rice and to strategically position stocks nationwide, especially in areas affected by the dry spell.

The Secretary argued that the present procurement process under Republic Act 9184 will not be as swift to answer any rice shortage. He said only with the emergency powers will the President be able to call for an immediate importation.

However, Hernandez said the emergency powers should only be used when there's imminent shortage due to the dry spell.

Anib is an organization of grains businessmen aimed at professionalizing the grains industry in the country.

Duraville holds groundbreaking

THE REAL ESTATE BOOM THE country is currently experiencing opened opportunities for different developers, large and small. This upsurge is projected to last for several years. This encouraging thought has motivated Duraville Realty and Development Corporation (DRDC), one of the more successful townhouse developers, to further expand its project portfolio.

"We would like to take full advantage of the real estate upsurge in the country. This is the prime reason why we are on the process of fine tuning the preparations for the market launch of our two new projects", mentions Duraville Marketing Incorporated (DMI) Executive Vice-President Editha L. Manansala.

"The Groundbreaking of Wellington Place in General Trias, Cavite, marks the humble expansion of our Company. This project was well thought of, all the while incorporating different marketing mixes to ensure a niche in the Cavite market, considering the stiff competition in the area", she adds.

Wellington Place boasts of two-level homes, with two to three bedrooms and two toilet and baths. Each unit comes with a carport, landscaped pocket garden, perimeter fence and individual gate as add-ons! For as low as P888,000.00, you can own a Clarice house model and move-in upon 10 percent down payment. Balance is payable through Bank, Pag-ibig or In-house financing.

The groundbreaking of Wellington Place is scheduled on Aug. 25. This important event will formally mark the beginning of the site development and will also provide prospects and buyers an exclusive chance to view the site and the model units. For further inquiries, please call Duraville Marketing Incorporated at 634-8801 to 03.

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATING COUNCIL
9th Flr. Banco De Oro Plaza, Paseo De Roxas, Makati City
Tel. #811-41-12/811-44-67

NOTICE OF VACANCY

POSITION : DIRECTOR II (2 slots)
ITEM NO. : DIR2-2, DIR2-3
SALARY GRADE : 26
STATUS : PERMANENT
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's Degree; Three (3) year of supervisory experience; training none required; Career Service Executive Eligbility (CSEE), Career Executive Services (CES) - Optional

POSITION : PROJECT EVALUATION OFFICER III
ITEM NO. : PEO3-16
SALARY GRADE : 18
STATUS : PERMANENT
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Two (2) year of relevant experience, 8 hours of relevant training; Career Service Professional

POSITION : PROJECT EVALUATION OFFICER II
ITEM NO. : PEO2-14
SALARY GRADE : 15
STATUS : PERMANENT
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; One (1) year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training; Career Service Professional

POSITION : PROJECT EVALUATION OFFICER I
ITEM NO. : PEO1-20
SALARY GRADE : 11
STATUS : PERMANENT
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; relevant experience and training none required; Career Service Professional.

POSITION : PROJECT MANAGER IV (2 slots)
ITEM NO. : 3.1, 3.3
SALARY GRADE : 26
STATUS : Co-Term with the project (UARPMO)
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's Degree; Three (3) year of supervisory experience; training none required; Career Service Executive Eligbility (CSEE), Career Executive Service (CES) - Optional

POSITION : PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER V (2 slots)
ITEM NO. : 4.1, 4.5
SALARY GRADE : 24
STATUS : Co-Term with the project (UARPMO)
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Master's Degree; Four (4) years in position/s involving management and supervision; Twenty Four (24) hours of training in management & supervision; Career Service (Professional) - Optional

POSITION : CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
ITEM NO. : 5
SALARY GRADE : 24
STATUS : Co-Term with the project (UARPMO)
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Master's Degree; Four (4) years in position/s involving management and supervision; Twenty Four (24) hours of training in management & supervision; Career Service (Professional) - Optional

POSITION : ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER V
ITEM NO. : 9.2
SALARY GRADE : 18
STATUS : Co-Term with the project (UARPMO)
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; Two (2) years of relevant experience; Eight (8) hours of relevant training; Career Service (Professional) - Optional.

POSITION : PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER II
ITEM NO. : 10.2
SALARY GRADE : 15
STATUS : Co-Term with the project (UARPMO)
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; One (1) year of relevant experience; Four (4) hours of relevant training; Career Service (Professional) - Optional

POSITION : ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IV
ITEM NO. : 11
SALARY GRADE : 15
STATUS : Co-Term with the project (UARPMO)
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; One (1) year of relevant experience; Four (4) hours of relevant training; Career Service (Professional) - Optional

Interested applicants may file/send their applications with ID picture and/or apply personally as soon as possible to the:

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE GROUP
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
9th Flr. Banco De Oro Plaza, Paseo De Roxas St., Makati City
Telephone Nos. 811-4112/811-4467
EMAIL: hrd@hudcc.gov.ph

Republic of the Philippines
City of Cebu
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Cebu City Government, thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC), invites all interested manufacturers, suppliers, dealers and/or distributors to apply for eligibility and to submit BIDS for the supply of various items, as follows:

ITEM NO.	Name of Project	Location	Brief Description	Approved Budget Contract	PR #	Fee of Bid Documents
1	1 steam generating plant; 1 heat pump chiller,1 steam generating plant installation; 1 heat pump chiller installation; commissioning and engineering	SP	air condition for the new legislative building	16,730,150.00	732-07	.002 of ABC
2	22 units 3.2 Ghz, 600 Mhz F S B (or better) and other items	ACCTG	for the implementation of the ENGAS	1,089,000.00	653-07	.002 of ABC
3	8 units TK 3207 tough and water resistant UHF FM radio transceiver and other items	Office of the Mayor	for the use in the continuous security operations	249,500.00	535-07	.002 of ABC

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	schedule of items 1-2	schedule of item 3
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	August 23-27, 2007	August 23-29, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	August 28, 2007	-
3. Submission & Opening of Bid Docs	September 11, 2007	August 30, 2007
4. Evaluation of Bid Documents	September 12-14, 2007	September 3-6, 2007
5. Post Evaluation	September 17-19, 2007	September 7-12, 2007
6. Notice of Award	September 20, 2007	September 13, 2007

Bid documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount as reflected under "Fee of Bid Documents" above to the Cebu City Treasurer's Office Cashier.

The Cebu City Government assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

For more information, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 253-7778 and 412-0000, local 805.

These requirements are posted at the GSO Bulletin Board, Post Office, in-front of Cebu City Hall Main Building Bulletin Board, Capitol Building Bulletin Board and Cebu City Website.

The Bids and Awards Committee of the City of Cebu reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered and most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO L. FERNANDEZ**
Chairman

(PDI - August 23, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Abra
MUNICIPALITY OF LAGANGILANG

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **LEONORA CAMPOSANDO ANICAL** has filed with this Office a Petition for Change of First Name from **MARIA LEONORA** to **LEONORA** in the Certificate of Live Birth of **MARIA LEONORA ALCANTARA CAMPOSANO** who was born on **15 MARCH 1971** at San Antonio, Singalong, Manila and whose parents are PABLO BARCIAL CAMPOSANO and CRISTINA HERMOSO ALCANTARA.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than two weeks upon publication.

(Sgd.) Engr. ROSELILY RAMOS ABORJE
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI--Aug. 23, 2007)

RIZAL EXPERIMENTAL STATION AND PILOT SCHOOL OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

Maybunga, Pasig City

Vacant Position

(1) Teacher II; SG-11; Item No. TCH2-30114; Bachelor of Secondary Education or Bachelor's Degree plus 18 professional units in Education with appropriate major preparation; No experience required; Eligibility: LET.

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **PROMINENCE PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CORP.** with office address **Unit 2501 Tycoon Centre, Ortigas Center, Pearl Drive, Pasig City** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Developer of Mass Housing Project (Paseo de San Roque Village - Bulacan)** with a capacity of **439 Low-cost/economic housing units** with project/plant site located at **Barangay San Roque, San Rafael, Bulacan**.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--Aug. 23, 2007)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **CROWN COMMUNITIES (BULACAN), INC.** with office address **Twins Plaza Complex, Km. 42, Mc Arthur Highway, Bulihan, Malolos, Bulacan** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Developer of Low-Cost Mass Housing Project (Provence 2)** with a capacity of **357 Low-Cost Mass Housing Units** with project/plant site located at **City of Malolos, Bulacan**.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--Aug. 23, 2007)

PRIME PROPERTIES FOR SALE

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(A) Cebu City, Super - Prime Corner Lots
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Good Rental/Billboard Income
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or Retail Development

(B) Lapu-Lapu City, Mactan
2,346 M2 Rental Apartments/Empty Lot
Ideal for Commercial/Residential Development

(C) Barangay Duljo, Cebu City
2,490 M2 Duljo Market, modest lease income
Ideal for commercial development

(D) Several large land parcels outside Legazpi, Albay
Total Land Area of 35+ Hectares
All with extensive National or Main Road Access
Clean Titles
Ideal for Middle-Income Residential Subdivisions
Offered at very low per M2 prices.

Interested buyers please contact:
032-2315148 or 0917-710-0364

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hedcor

Hedcor Sibulan, Inc.

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of Hedcor Sibulan, Inc. (the "Committee") invites interested parties to pre-qualify and bid for the Transmission Line Package (the "Package") of the Sibulan Hydroelectric Power Project.

The Package covers the following scope of works:

> Pole erection, guying and anchoring, dressing and stringing of approximately 17.7 km long 69 KV transmission line using 795 ACSR "Drake"

The Sibulan Hydroelectric Power Project consists of 2 power plants with a total installed capacity of 42.5 MW to be constructed in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur. The Project is developed by Hedcor Sibulan, Inc., a subsidiary of Aboitiz Power Corporation.

Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to Hedcor Sibulan, Inc. together with the latest company profile, capability statement, and audited financial statement for the last 3 years. The LOI shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address of the interested party, as well as the name and signature of the authorized representative. The LOI and supporting documents shall be addressed to Mr. Rene B. Ronquillo and shall be submitted not later than 5:00 pm of August 28, 2007 at either of Hedcor Sibulan, Inc.'s offices:

1. Hedcor Sibulan, Inc.
   6th Floor, 110 Legazpi St., Legazpi Village, Makati, Metro Manila
   Tel. 8179514
   Fax 8179508
   or
2. Hedcor Sibulan, Inc.
   103 Ladislawa Building, 1 Ladislawa Avenue
   Buhangin, Davao City
   Tel. 2215346
   Fax 2224839

Further instructions will be provided in due course to interested parties who submitted the LOI.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or potential bidder without offering any reason whatsoever. Neither the Committee nor Hedcor Sibulan Inc. assumes any obligation to compensate or indemnify any party for any expense or loss that it may incur as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd) Rene B. Ronquillo
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - August 23, 2007)

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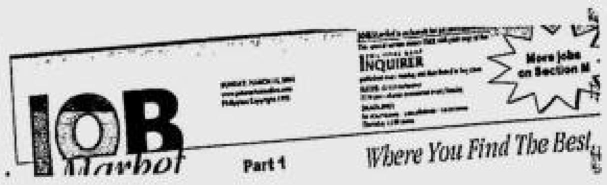

With great sorrow, the family of

CASTRO B R
BRIGGEN 0-2017

BRIG. GEN. BIENVENIDO RUIZ CASTRO (Ret.)

would like to announce the passing of our
beloved **Dad** and **Lolo Beans** on August 17, 2007.

Born on March 25, 1924, a veteran of the Korea and Vietnam wars, inducted into the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in Fort Benning, Georgia in 2005.

Necrological Services at 8:00 pm on August 24 at St. Ignatius Chapel, Camp Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Interment will be on August 25, 2007 at the 'Libingan ng mga Bayani' after the 10:00 am Mass at St. Michael's Chapel, Fort Bonifacio.

Our dear **Dad** is survived by his wife, **Aurora**, and children **Yvonne** (Martin), **Bienvenido Jr.** (Lyn), **Benedict** (Jovi), **Malou**, **Cathy** (Pierre), **Dawn** (Armand), **Bernard**, **Suzette** (Tom) and many loving grandchildren in the US and Philippines.

In lieu of flowers, please send your monetary donations to the family in creation of the Bienvenido Ruiz Castro Foundation for the benefit of the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in the Philippines.

Dad, we mourn in grief with your passing
but we take comfort in the thought that your
journey to eternal rest is a pleasant one
for yours was a life well lived.

ALFONSO G. ROY, JR.

"Amang"

Former Vice-Governor, Province of Tarlac

Joined his Creator on August 12, 2007 in New York, USA

His loving wife, **Encarnacion;** children, **Al** and **Marivic; Rey** and **Maida; Bot** and **Julia; Joy** and **Joma**; grandchildren, **Carlo** and **Nikki; Patricia, Miguel, Liaa, Gabriel,** and **Rafael;** and **Paolo** and **Raffy**; brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Chapel, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig on Saturday, August 25, 2007, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

My candle burns at both ends:
It will not last the night,
But, ah, my foes and oh, my friends –'
It gives a lovely light!
— Edna St. Vincent Millay

MERVYN GARZON ENCANTO

passed away peacefully at the age of 62 on August 22, 2007.

National President, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, 1993-95
President, Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA), 1999-2001
Current President, Transparency International Philippines
Senior Vice-President & General Counsel, United Coconut Planters Bank, 1992-98
Executive Vice-President, Philippine National Bank, 1998-2005
Member of the Board of Trustees, UP Visayas Foundation
Member, Sigma Rho Fraternity

beloved husband of Georgina Reyes Encanto, loving father of Melissa, Katrina and Gela, son of Socorro Garzon, brother and brother-in-law of Evelyn and Ramon Salao, Romeo and Olga. Ephraim, Julie and Pedro Almazan, Mila Villavicencio Reyes, Jun and Cynthia Calejesan, Virgilio and Marie Reyes and Val and Issa Reyes,

His remains lie in state in San Lorenzo Ruiz chapel of the Sta. Maria della Strada Church, Katipunan Avenue and will be cremated on August 26, 2007 after the 7:00 a.m. Mass in the Mortuary Center of della Strada.

Please omit flowers. Donations may be offered to support the Guimbal Parochial School in Iloilo. Readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of the soul of Mervyn.

Notify family and friends of a loved one who had just passed away.

We accept death notices, announcing details of the person's wake and interment. For a very affordable fee you can reach out to everyone who have been a part of the life of your dearly departed.

For more information, you may contact Inquirer Classifieds at (02)897 8425.

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ROSITA M. FRAGANTE

joined the Lord on August 17, 2007 at the age of 87.

Her presence was God's present to us all.

Rose is survived by her beloved husband, **Ret. Col. Mauel T. Fragante**; her sisters **Catalina** and **Josefina**; her children and their spouses, **Bing** and **Tom**, **Boy** and **Malu**, **Baby** and **Ramon**, **Bebot**, **Tess**, **Malou**, **Bembet** and **Alan**; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her son **Butchoy**.

Viewing will be from 6 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 25, 2007, after the 9 a.m. Mass.

ATTY. EMILIO P. GARCIA, JR.

His bereaved wife **Ma. Paz**; children **Hector Emil**, **Paolo Carlos**, **Katrina**; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at the Sanctuarium, 739 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Cremation will be on 26 August, 2007 at 12 nn.

DONATA TUASON HERRERA

of Balanga, Bataan & Quezon City

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 17, 2007 at the age of 79.

Her children, Dan, Boots, Bong and Doy, grandchildren, daughters & son-in-law, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church, Mahinhin St., UP Village beside Claret School, Q.C.

Interment will be at Court of Devotion, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, Metro Manila after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church.

UNDER RENOVATION

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SM Megamall Branch, 5th Floor Building B from July 30 to September 15, 2007.

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Kalaw: 528-0213; 527-3342
Megamall: 635-0219; 635-0220

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

ROGER T. PEREZ

Died July 31, 2007 at the age of 49.

He is survived by his wife Maura; son Timothy; mother Flordeliz; brother Eddie, Peter, Paul & sister Judy Perez Ratcliffe.

Body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels. Interment on August 24, 2007 at 10:30 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Park.

Death Notice

ROBERTO BORJA SR.

Died August 21, 2007 at the age of 84.

His body lies in state at Chapel E Arlington, Araneta Ave., Quezon City and will be transferred at Chapel Love tomorrow, Aug. 23, 2007.

Interment will be on Tuesday, August 28, 2007, 2 p.m. at Eternal Garden, Quezon City.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

"For God so loved the world,
that He gave
His only begotten Son,
that whoever
believes in Him
shall not perish
but have
everlasting life."

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

WE ACCEPT
- **DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT**
- **MESSAGE OF THANKS**
- **DEATH ANNIVERSARY**
- **REQUIEMS**

On her EIGHTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY, we lovingly remember MOMMY, WHO IS FOREVER IN OUR MINDS and HEARTS... SORELY MISSED BY ALL OF US.

ENCARNACION "NENA" LOVINA-TICZON

(*wife* of the late Philantropist, Herbalist, Author and Corporate Lawyer **Atty. Romeo Reyes Ticzon, Sr.** and *eldest daughter* of the late Statesman, Banker, First Mayor of Pasay City, Founder of Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Secretary of Labor (President Elpidio Quirino administration), Philippine Airlines (PAL) Chairman, Philippine Veterans Bank Founder **Don Primitivo "Tibing" Lovina Sr.** and the late Philantropist **Doña Ruperta Herrero Lovina**)

1997 Gintong Sikap Awardee
(Federation of Filipino Consumers, Inc.)

1997 Gintong Ina Awardee
(Parangal ng Bayan Awards)

1997 Highest Achievement Awardee
(New Life on Family Development & Youth Council, Inc.)

1998 Golden Heart Public Service Awardee
(Development of Filipino Youth, Inc.)

who died in the Grace of our Lord on August 23, 1999 3:40 A.M. at Makati Medical Center at the age of 78.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches today, August 23, 2007

Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene *Quiapo, Manila*	***5:00 A.M.***
National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary *Sto. Domingo, Quezon City*	***5:45 A.M.***
Christ the King Parish *Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City*	***6:00 A.M.***
St. Francis Parish Church *Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City*	***6:00 A.M.***
Sanctuario de San Antonio *McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	***6:15 A.M.***
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church *Magallanes Village, Makati City*	***6:15 A.M.***
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *N. Garcia cor. Kalayaan Avenue, Bel-Air II, Makati City*	***6:30 A.M.***
Immaculate Concepcion Parish *P. Burgos Street, Antipolo, Rizal*	***6:30 A.M.***
Parish of Our Lady of Fatima *Rodriguez Avenue & Capinpin Street, Bangkal, Makati City*	***6:30 A.M.***
St. John Bosco Parish *A. Arnaiz Ave., cor. Amorsolo St., Makati City*	***7:30 A.M.***
Harrison Plaza Chapel *Harrison Plaza Shopping City, Malate, Manila*	***12:00 N.N.*** ***& 5:30 P.M.***
Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace *Our Lady of EDSA, Quezon City*	***5:30 P.M.***
Malate Catholic Church *2000 M.H. Del Pilar, Malate, Manila*	***6:00 P.M.***
Mary the Queen Parish *Madison Street, Greenhills, San Juan*	***6:00 P.M.***
Mt. Carmel Shrine *Doña J. Rodriguez Street, New Manila, Quezon City*	***6:00 P.M.***
Our Lady of Assumption Parish *Asuncion Street, Malate, Manila*	***6:15 P.M.***
Sanctuario de San Jose *Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	***6:15 P.M.***
Redemptorist Church *Baclaran, Parañaque*	***6:45 P.M.***

Her CHILDREN, IN-LAWS, GRANDCHILDREN and GREAT GRANDCHILDREN,

- ***JULIETA***
- ***ROMEO, JR.*** *and* ***LEONY DASCO*** *and their children ROSSANA and LITO VELASCO and their children RUTH ISABELLE, ROSS ISAIAH, ARLENE, VINCENT, DR. ADOLF, JULIUS and KAY and their children JULIO LUIS GABRIEL, KATRINA BEATRIZ, JULIANA KATHERINE*
- ***OPHELIA*** *and* ***BENNY T. CLEMENTE*** *and their daughters JACLYN, MARK and RACHELLE LLAMAS and their daughter MIKAELA RIANNA and SUZANNE*
- ***OTHELLO*** *and* ***LIZA ROÑO*** *and their children RAYMOND and his children TANYA ISABEL and ROMEO RODRIGO III, DR. MA. LUISA and her daughter MIGUELA ISABELLE, MILAGROS and MELISSA ANN*
- ***BELEN*** *and* ***ANTONIO V. MARTEL, JR.*** *and their daughter MARIA ANTONIA LOURDES*
- ***ROSSINA***
- ***LOURDES*** *and* ***EDGAR MARTIN*** *and their children MIGUEL, ANTONIO and DEIRDRÉ*
- ***PORTIA*** *and* ***RAMON B. SANTOS*** *and their children RAPHAEL, PAULINE and GABRIEL*
- ***RUBEN*** *(deceased),*

BROTHERS, *TEDDY HERRERO LOVINA and*
NONIE MONTILLA LOVINA,

BROTHER IN LAW, *BERT ACOSTA*

SISTER, *NING LOVINA-VILLAR*

SISTERS IN LAW, *DING MATIAS VDA. DE LOVINA,*
SYLVIA RICARD-LOVINA,
NORMA DE GUZMAN VDA. DE LOVINA
ISABEL VALLES-LOVINA and
MARYLOU PRIETO VDA. DE LOVINA

WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR SINCEREST THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO KEEP HER IN THEIR PRAYERS.

Made to keep NSJBI's Victoria Towers on Track

TOPPING OFF CEREMONY

The first quarter of 2006 ushered a promise of finer things to come as one of the country's recognized names in real estate, New San Jose Builders Inc. (NSJBI) held the launching of the Victoria Towers, an event graced by no less than the country's Vice-President Noli de Castro and Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte. Victoria Towers, is NSJBI's groundbreaking three-tower project consisting about 1,000 condominium units, situated on a 4,529 sq.m. prime property in Timog corner Panay Avenue, Quezon City

Named Victoria as a tribute to the matriach of the influential Roman family from Bataan, Doña Victoria, and NSJBI Chairman's (Jose L. Acuzar) youngest daughter, Ma. Victoria Jose, its architecture takes its cue from the contemporary design with units especially fitted to the urban concept of modern living - minimalist and compact. The bi-level configuration conveys well-thought spatial planning with living areas separated from the private bedrooms. The Victoria Towers affords the magnificent view of the lights of this area of the metropolis and units are provided with a balcony for enjoying this. Exceptional amenities like 200-pax capacity multi-purpose function room, gym/spa, business center, infinity pool, day care center and children's playground make living life at your convenience. It's proximity to schools, universities, shopping and entertainment centers, restaurants, hospitals and churches make Victoria Towers ideal. Also very accessible, everything else is within you reach. All it takes is five minutes - be it walk from Quezon Avenue, a ride from trafficless MRT , or a stroll to busy Morato. On top of these, 48% lower than other condos in the area with easy payment terms thru in-house, bank financing or thru Pag-IBIG. Come August 2007, Victoria Towers already had its topping off ceremony-the project is right on time!

NSJBI President Rey Vergara

NSJBI SVP for Operation Felicisimo Isidoro

Project Manager Noel Lacsamana

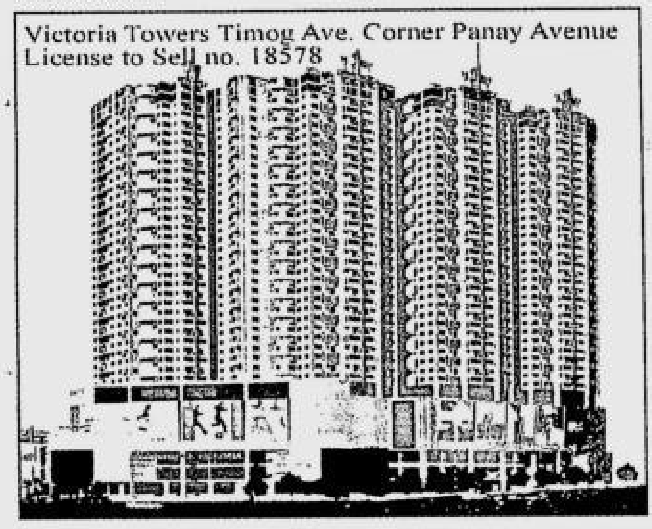
VP for Sales And Marketing Ching Lin

Despite of the rain, the topping off ceremony pushed through and well attended. Investor and unit owners came and paid witness to the event, shared good food and enjoyed themselves. A few even their personal experiences with the project and the condominium development

Project Manager Noel Lacsamana shares that his people, rain or shine, work 24 hours 7 days a week-thats why construction is really fast. "We will deliver this December 2007 as promised". And our clients are happy and confident that we can deliver on time says Ching Lin, Vice President for Sales and Marketing. "And because we handle everything-being the builder, developer, and planner rolled into one, clients anywhere in the world are assured there won't be any unforseen add-on cost, adds Rey Vegara, NSJBI President. And with only a few units left and with construction right on time, unit owners are really excited and glad on their purchase.

"I am confident in investing on Victoria Towers even if I'm not physically there to monitor its construction because I trust the developer (New San Jose Builders) to deliver as promised. Further, photos of the construction are regularly posted on the company's website so I get up-to-date information about it. "says Efren Orosco, a Filipino U.S. immigrant. Another end, Karen Reyes, a banker chose Victoria Towers because of its strategic location and immediately paid in full downpayment for two units. Investment-wise, Winston Munar, an OFW has this to share " I scouted condos in the area and found that it has the lowest price and realized it would appreciate. And true enough form P1.8M unit selling price which i bought, it is now P2.5M. It's really worth an investment."

Victoria Towers Timog Ave. Corner Panay Avenue
License to Sell no. 18578



> ***And true enough from P1.8M unit selling price which i bought, it is now P2.5M. It's really worth an investment."***

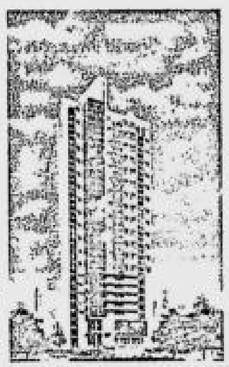
Winston Munar - Marine Engineer

Banker

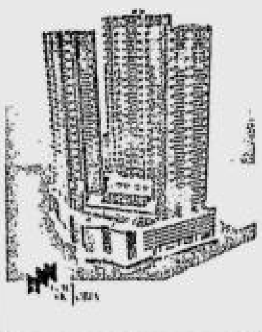
Following the success of the Victoria Towers, the company launched more projects which included the Victoria Station and Victoria de Manila which is selling really fast and Fort Victoria at Fort Bonifacio Global City. "We are very happy and excited about these projects. We hope to provide more prime housing option at very sensible prices. "continues NSJBI SVP Felicisimo Isidoro. The company has also tied up with local and international banks to facilitate the remittances and make payments easier. A 24-hour customer service hotline also been established to give clients all over the world convenient access to information.

NSJBI proves that it can be easy putting together projects of beauty and practicality, while creating ways to reach its clients and still be able to deliver on schedule. With premium condominium projects that are worth every Filipino's hard-earned money that are priced to be as affordable as possible without compromising international standards of quality and ON TRACK, what else can one ask for? 3BR units area ranges from 41, 61 & 80 sqm., reservation fee is Php10, 000.00 and monthly amortization can be as low as Php 10, 000.00. **(Karla Rey)**

Victoria Station
GMA-Kamuning MRT Station



Victoria de Manila
Taft Ave. Pedro Gil



Fort Victoria
Fort Bonifacio

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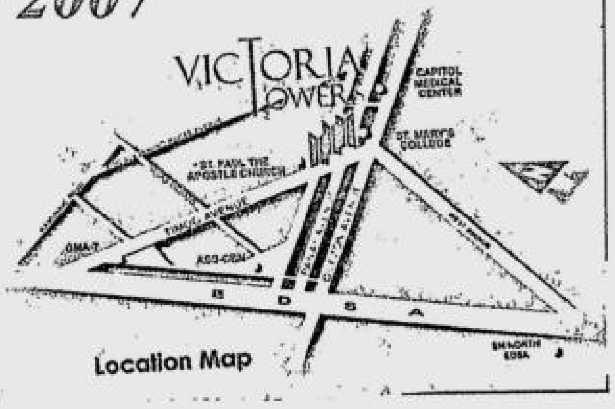


Location Map

Rice stock down

By Amy R. Remo

THE PROLONGED dry spell that wreaked havoc on the rice planting cycle has contributed to the 22 percent drop in the country's rice inventory as of July 1.

Data from the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Statistics showed that rice inventory slipped to 1.53 million metric tons as of July 1 from 1.96 million metric tons last year. This volume was also lower by 6.1 percent than the previous month's 1.63 million metric tons.

Of the current stock level, about 56 percent are with the households, while 24 and 20 percent are in commercial warehouses and National Food Authority depositories, respectively.

Compared to the previous month's figures, household inventory dropped 11.2 percent and commercial warehouse rice stock by 7.5 percent.

In contrast, stocks in NFA depositories, of which 89 percent are imported rice, went up by 15.3 percent to 292,800 metric tons from the previous month's 254,000 metric tons.

Total rice imports planned for 2007 is 1.7 million metric tons, of which 1.611 million metric tons had already been contracted.

Despite the drop in inventory, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap had said that the country has enough rice given an inventory equivalent to 70 days of consumption.

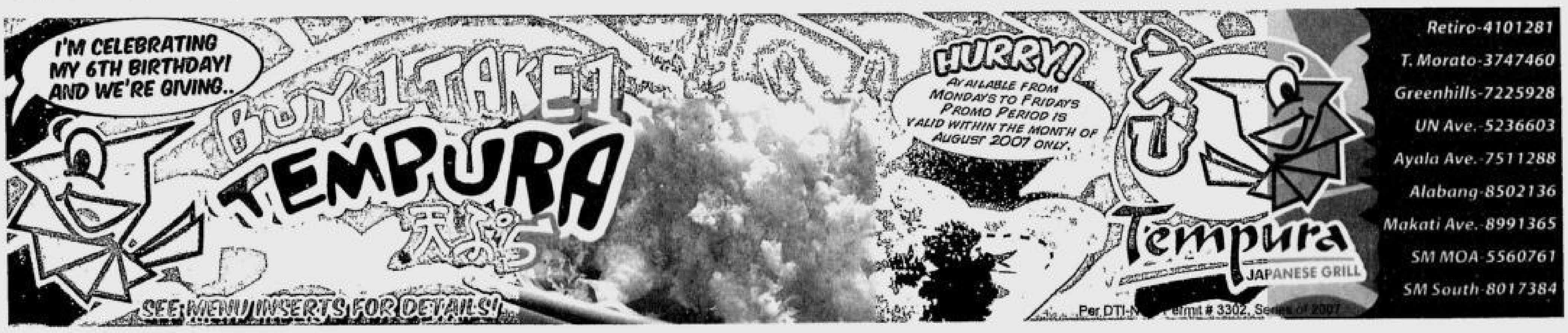
NFA has to replenish its inventory once its food security stocks is used to alleviate the effects of the dry spell and the forecasted La Niña.

As a matter of policy, the NFA should maintain, at any given time, food security inventory equivalent to 15 days of national consumption.

The country's daily rice consumption is estimated at 32,000 metric tons.

Yap also said that apart from easing the effects of the dry spell, the quick turnaround planting program would partly augment rice stocks for 2008.

The NFA had also earlier said it would import 260,000 metric tons of rice as buffer stock for next year.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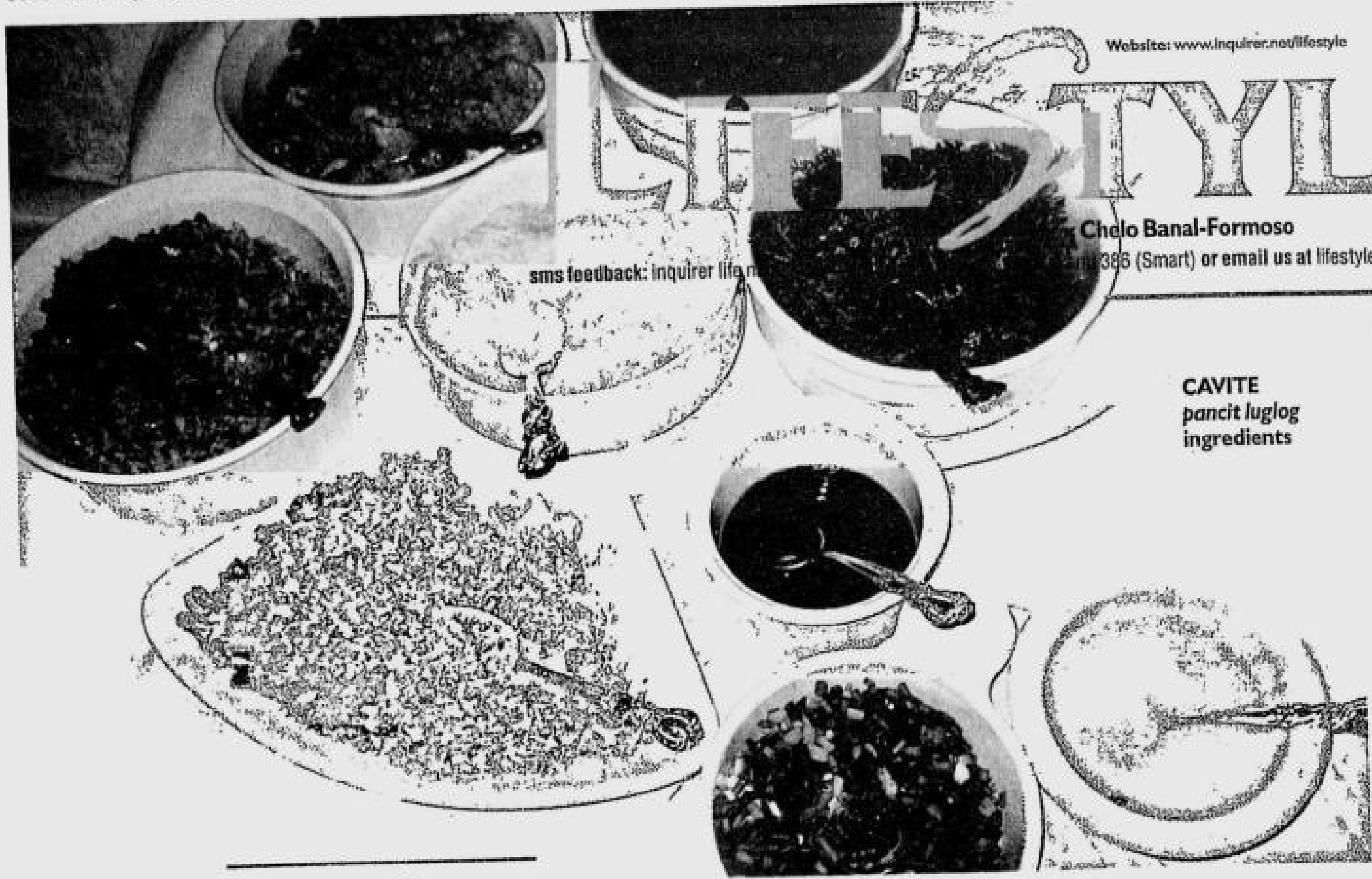
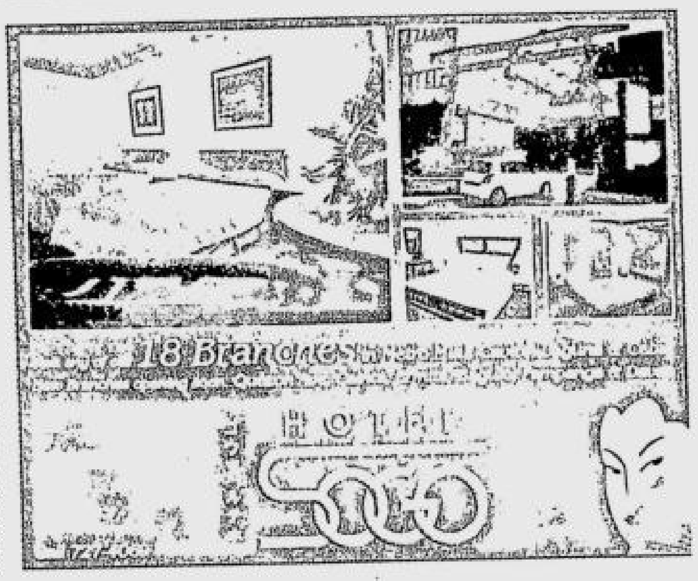
Reggie Aspiras on how to cook tempeh /D4



CAVITE *pancit luglog* ingredients



18 Branches
HOTEL SOGO

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

What a difference an herb makes to 'pancit luglog'

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME but I recognized the herb with needle-like leaves.

Unsoy, I said aloud. The vendor at the Mahogany market in Tagaytay City said yes.

Unsoy has the aroma and taste of coriander leaves or *wansuey*. But it looks so different, more like dill. A Caviteño will tell you, however, that *unsoy* is better than *wansuey* especially when used in their own kind of *pancit luglog*.

> 'Unsoy' smells like coriander and looks like dill

I had my first taste of this particular *pancit* in the home of Yaying Pimentel Dragon ages ago. Her brother-in-law Bob prepared the *luglog* for us.

On the table were the dozen ingredients. A plate had a heaping serving containing all the ingredients with the *unsoy* on top of everything.

I remember laughing at how Bob pointed to all that *unsoy* and exclaimed, "*Pampasarap ito. Diyos ko!*"

It was easy to understand his excitement. He was only here for a visit from his home in Los Angeles. He must have been dreaming of preparing and finally eating the *luglog*. Thankfully, *unsoy* was in season.

A more recent tasting was at Yaying's home again. She had tempted me by saying she was serving the *pancit luglog*. And there on the buffet table were many plates holding the essential ingredients of this noodle dish.

New Malabon

The Cavite *pancit luglog* originated in the town of General Trias, originally known as San Francisco de Malabon. Surprisingly, it did not have oysters, the shellfish most associated with the province.

To assemble the *pancit*, one starts with the noodles—fine white *bihon* that have been blanched. Slightly cooked *mongo* sprouts (*togue*) are the next layer. Then the creamy orange sauce is poured on top.

Making the sauce involves boiling one whole chicken for the broth. The meat is shredded afterward. Crushed garlic and sliced onions are then sautéed with the shredded chicken, ground pork, shrimp and thinly sliced cabbage.

The broth is poured in together with the intense flavoring mixture called *dikdikan*. This consists of shrimp heads, tiny crabs (*alimasag*) and crayfish (*alupihang dagat*), pounded together and with a little water to extract the tastes and the orange color from these shellfish. That's what gives it the Cavite character.

Thickening the sauce needs starch, not cornstarch, but *gawgaw* or what is used to make your shirt stiff.

The other layers are four kinds of toppings or *sahog* that add not only flavor but also texture. These are shredded *tinapa*,

WHAT A DIFFERENCE/ C3

A BUNCH of the rare *unsoy*

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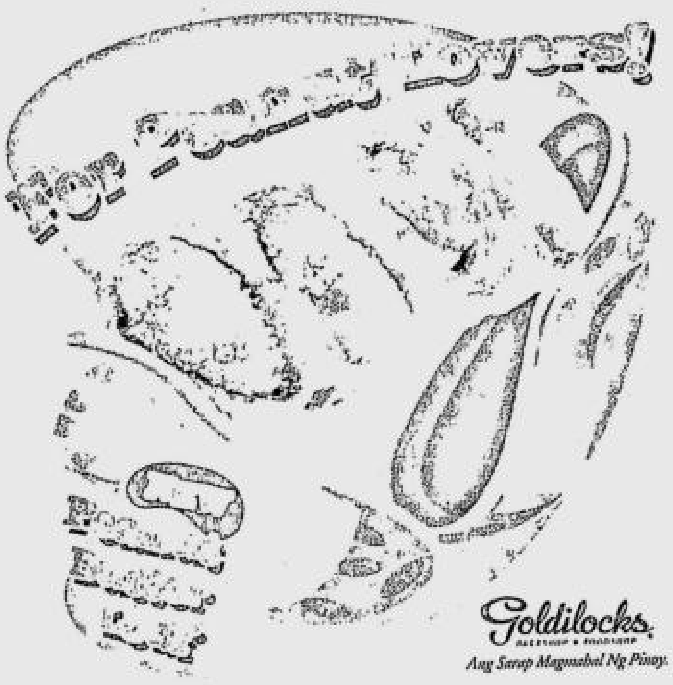

Lovers!
Goldilocks
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DINING OUT

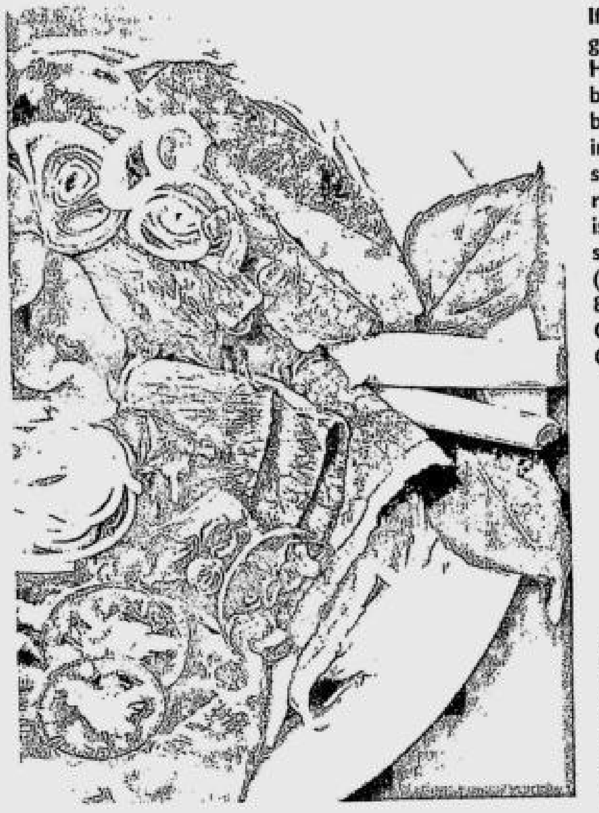
How about a 4-course dinner tonight?

PAPARAZZI IS OFFERING TODAY, Aug. 23, a four-course dinner by chef de cuisine Francessco Rizzo complemented by Sutter Home's fine wines at P1,960 per person. The menu includes Melon Carpaccio with Prosciutto and Goat Cheese Tart in Balsamic Reduction paired with Sutter Home Chardonnay, Mushroom Walnut Tortelli in Asparagus Smoked Chicken Cream Sauce and Sutter Home Sauvignon Blanc, Roasted Crispy Snapper over Vegetable Mosaic and Pumpkin Fondue and Sutter Home Pinot Noir, and Ricotta Cheesecake and Candied Fruits with Figs and Marsala Compote and Sutter Home Muscato. Call 6338888 loc 2738.

THE RENAISSANCE MAKATI City Hotel's Emperor Court celebrates the Harvest Festival of Mid-Autumn, Aug. 18-Sept. 25. An exceptional mid-autumn seafood dinner menu with 33 different selections prepared by the hotel's Chinese master chef Jackie Fong will be available on Sept. 25 at P1,188+ per person. Call 8116888.

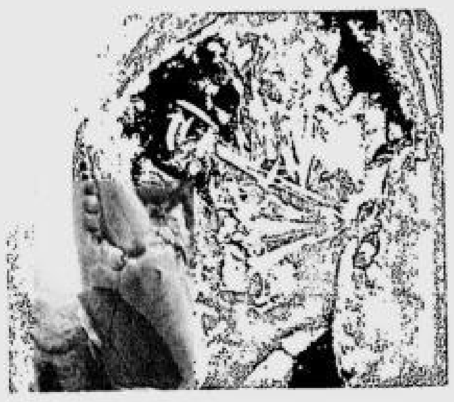
MARCO POLO PLAZA CEBU shines the spotlight on Switzerland in its monthly Culinary Journeys. Dubbed Swissness from A-Z, the festival offers a comprehensive feast, from Alpine air-dried beef, chocolates, cheese fondue, raclette, roesti, sausages, to Zurich-style sliced veal in cream sauce. Diners get a chance to join the raffle for a chance to win a round-trip ticket to Zurich from by Swiss International Airline (845-4574 and 2531111 in Cebu).

TOSCA, the new Italian restaurant at Dusit Hotel Nikko, will host on Sept. 17 an evening of wine experience featuring the wines of Grant Burge and the stem wares of Schott Zwiesel. "A Schott of Burge" offers a crash course on matching wines and dishes, and wines and stem ware. Featured are Burge wines like Summer Eden Chardonnay, Barossa Vines Shiraz, Miamba Shiraz, Filsell Shiraz, and Grant Burge 10-year port along with Schott Zwiesel stem ware and Tosca's Italian dishes. Price is P950 net per person, cocktails and wines inclusive. Tickets are available at Dusit Hotel Nikko and Wine Warehouse Corporation (8673333 loc 3301 and 3310, 8890680, 8434675).



HEALTHY BEEF STEW

If you like Vietnamese food, then you have to go to Pho Hoa. Roughly translated as Harmony Noodles, the noodle soup chain has become a popular restaurant for family and big *barkada* meals. Though diners also find irresistible spring rolls, rice dishes and fresh salads, the different kinds of *pho* (rice noodle) remain the top sellers. Beef Stew (in photo) is a spicy bowl of broth, carrots, onions, sprouts, basil leaves and tender beef brisket (tels. 4212049 and 4212972; text 0917-8EWCITY). Pho Hoa Eastwood branch is at City Walk I, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.



CRUSTASIA offers a wide selection of crab and lobster dishes. Must-try dishes are Steamed Hua Teow Ginger Crab, Singaporean Chili Crab, Yong's Thai Curry Crab, Vietnamese Butter-Ginger Crab, Cantonese Style Crab Sotanghon, among others. Also Lobster in Olive and Garlic, Pacific Lobster and the Grilled Lobster Vietnamese Style. Crustasia branches are at Rockwell Power Plant Mall the Podium and TriNoma Mall. Grand Singaporean Seafood Buffet is available every Friday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (lunch) and from 6-9 p.m. (dinner) exclusively at the Podium branch. Call 7285463, 6313857 and 9013607.

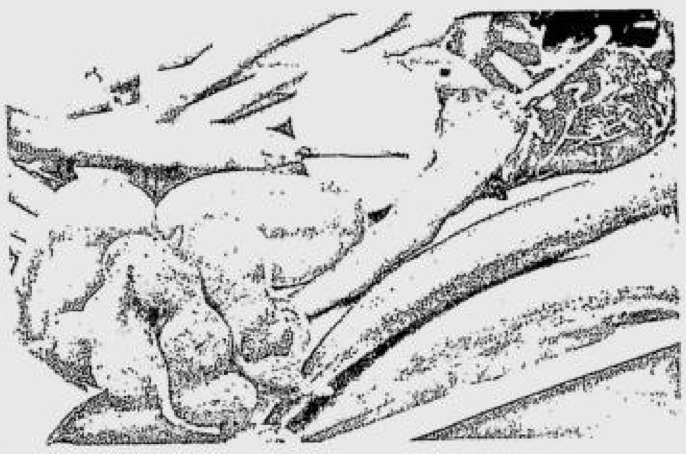
HULA-HULA Seafood and Barbecue House features Chicken Musubi Sushi. The restaurant also offers Wiki Wiki Chicken and Seafood in Coconut, Adobo Maki, Spam Soba Maki, among others. Also available are the Balinese Luau Feast and the Kilauea. Hula-hula branches are at Shangri-La Street Scape, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, tel. 910-3218; Westgate, Filinvest (tel. 7712291/2289.)

Meals in minutes

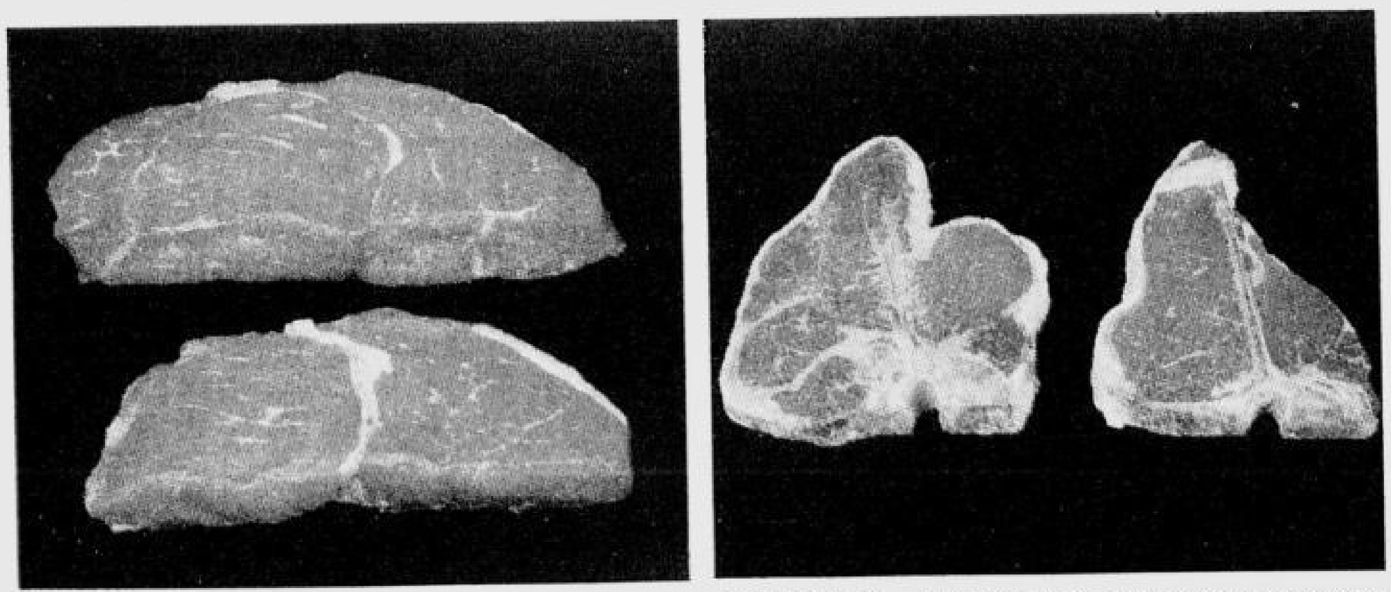
TIME IS CURRENCY IN today's lifestyles, many of which run along a 24/7 route. For those with no time for the luxury of cooking at home, SM Supermarket offers ideas for meals that can be prepared in minutes.

- It's in the mix. You can prepare all-time favorite Filipino dishes like *pochero*, *pinakbet*, *chopsuey* and *nilaga* in a jiffy with freshly packed vegetable mixes from SM Supermarket. These are packed with premium quality vegetables, all peeled, chopped or sliced for your favorite recipe.
- Ready to cook. Ready-to-fry or -grill savory dishes like chicken *inasal*, beef *tapa*, Oriental wings, barbecue on sticks are pre-marinated with selected herbs and spices. Special sauces not only create delicious flavors but also tenderize at the same time. Also worth trying out are tasty and crunchy chicken nuggets for kids, sizzling *sisig*, and spicy Oriental Korean beef stew.
- Microwaveable food. Microwaveable offerings at SM Supermarket now include authentic Filipino dinner selections such as *patatim*, *callos* and *adobo* flakes packed in microwave sage reusable plastic containers. Apart from convenience (these can serve two and easily heat in four minutes), these foods are rich in natural spices and flavors without preservatives and MSG.
- Food to go. Food for those on the go and require easy-to-eat meals range from roast chicken to shrimp tempura, to Filipino comfort food like tangy *dinuguan*, spicy *bopis*, and tasty *lechon* Cebu—all cooked to perfection. All you have to do is heat these deliciously prepared meals to enjoy dinner with family and friends.

These quick meals are available at all SM Supermarket branches at SM Makati and at the SM Supermalls both in the Metro and provincial areas. Also available at Save More branches in Alabang, Marikina, Jaro, Iloilo, Mactan, Angono, and Elizabeth Mall.

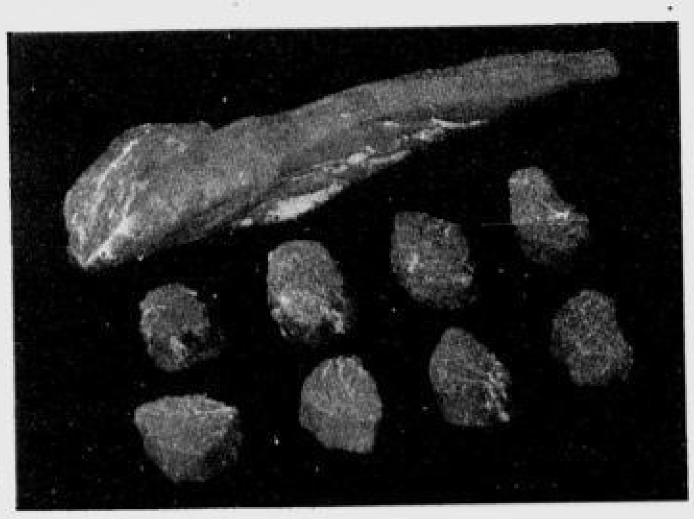


***SINIGANG sa sampaloc* becomes a no-fuss dish to cook with this ready-to-add complete vegetable mix.**



STEAKS 101. (Above, left) sirloin steak, porterhouse steak and (below, right) tenderloin steak

PHOTOS FROM THE US MEAT EXPORT FEDERATION CHART



Stake out your steaks

FOR THOSE WHO ENJOY biting into a fat, juicy steak, here's a freshman course on the variety of beef cuts for steak, all available at a Monterey Meatshop near you:

T-Bone—Easy to recognize because of its distinctive T-shape bone, foodies like this succulent steak cut. It consists of the striploin and the tender filet mignon.

Porterhouse steak—This is a big cut that has parts from two muscles—the top loin and the soft tenderloin. Considered high-quality steak—it is pricey and is the favorite of steak lovers—it has more tenderloin than the T-bone.

Rib-eye steak—Another popular steak cut. The meat from the rib area is marbled—it has more fat than other steak cuts, and is also more tender, juicier and has a rich flavor.

Tenderloin steak—Cut from the tenderloin muscle, this part is used usually for filet mignon, which means "a small boneless piece of meat." It is derived from the tenderloin muscle along the top of the loin.

Sirloin steak—"Above the loin," this cut is from the lower part of the ribs.

Filipino beef steak is that thinly sliced tender beef cuts, added to soy sauce and calamansi or lemon juice to achieve a delicious blend of sour-salty flavor. And don't forget the onion rings. Our very own *bistek* is served with steamed rice.

Breakfast steak—The round-tip steak, thinly cut and enjoyed as part of the breakfast meal, served with eggs, placed in a sandwich, or for special recipes like burritos.

The best way to really learn about steaks is through practice. Visit a Monterey meat shop, consider the colors and textures of the beef, bring the meat home to grill or pan-fry, and enjoy it with the family.

Call 633MEAT (6328) in Metro Manila.

THE CONSUMER

Protect yourself from card thieves

By Linda B. Bolido

WHAT WAS A PLEASANT dinner with family in a nice restaurant turned later into a nightmare for one American, according to an Internet story.

His credit-card bill reflected charges running up to several hundred dollars immediately after that evening that he did not make.

Eventually, of course, he managed to sort out the problem but it took a while. In the meantime, because his card was "maxed out," he could not use it.

People who use credit or even automated teller machine (ATM) cards now have to deal with this constant threat.

Technology has not only made life easier for law-abiding people but also for scam artists.

One report said a portable card scanner is actually being sold in gadget shops in the United States for a legitimate purpose. Many conference organizers now issue identification cards to participants that are scanned for access to events.

As is usually the case, it did not take long before people with not-so-pure intentions saw another use for the gadget.

Banks constantly remind clients not to write down their personal identification numbers (PIN) or, if they have to, not to keep them with their ATM cards.

I personally know of two incidents where thieves hit the jackpot. Pins to the ATM cards they stole were stuck to the cards themselves.

To reduce the chances of your being victimized, here are some helpful tips from Citibank, which recently issued the booklet "Use Credit Wisely" to help cardholders not just to manage their finances better.

"Credit card, ATM and Internet fraud can often be prevented. Most credit thieves use stolen credit cards within 48 hours. Call your credit-card company immediately to report a lost card," the booklet advises.

It points out that different card companies have different rules regarding a cardholder's responsibility for unauthorized charges. Find out what those rules are so you would know what to do if you are victimized.

Some banks may require you to pay the unauthorized charges if your card is used before you report it lost or stolen. "Follow up your call with a letter giving your account number, the date the card was missing and when you called in the report."

Another useful advice is, "Be careful about how and when you use your credit cards. Never lend them to anyone, don't give your numbers to anybody and never leave your cards or receipts lying around, no matter where you live."

If you get a call or e-mail purportedly from your bank asking for account numbers and other information, ignore it. Banks have repeatedly said they would not ask for the information because they have it—they gave it to you.

More tips

Here are other things to remember:

- Always know where your cards are and keep them in a safe place.
- Don't give your account number over the phone unless you know the company and you made the call.
- Get a card that has added security features, like a photograph.
- Draw a line through the blank space above the total on charge slips to prevent changes and tear up carbons from slips.
- Don't sign blank charge slips.
- Always check receipts against your monthly statements. Errors must be reported within 20 days (or whatever your bank's or credit card issuer's deadline) of the statement date.

Report any discrepancy no matter how minor. Felons often start with small amounts just to see if you will notice.

- Record card numbers, expiration date and phone numbers. Keep this record in a safe place separate from your cards. Use it if you need to report lost or stolen cards.
- Never put your account number or personal identification number on the outside of an envelope or postcard. Never put your PIN on the card or in your wallet.
- Carry only the cards you need, especially when travelling.

Online scams

The website MSN Money cites ways thieves try to get information from you through the Internet to be able to access your bank accounts or credit cards:

- **Phishing.** You get an e-mail that appears to be from your bank or an online service instructing you to click on a link and provide information to verify your account.
- **Pharming or spoofing.** From a legitimate website, you are redirected to an impostor site that asks you for confidential information.
- **Smishing.** This is phishing done with a text message on a smart phone. It instructs you to visit a bogus website.
- **Spyware.** You unknowingly download illicit software when you open an attachment, click on a popup or download a song or a game. Felons use spyware to record your keystrokes and obtain credit-card numbers, bank account information and passwords when you make purchases or other business online. They also can access confidential information on your hard drive.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

What a difference an herb makes...

From page C1

crushed *chicharon*, sliced hard-boiled chicken eggs and toasted garlic.

More flavors and aromas are contributed by the next five ingredients—grated green mangoes for its sourness (*pampaasim*), *patis, kalamansi, kinchay* or Chinese parsley and, finally, *unsoy*.

All of that is mixed together. The result looks like noodles painted a light orange with specks of the many ingredients. Your share will look small after all that mixing but when you start to eat, the *pancit luglog* turns out to be heavy, very filling.

You assemble the *pancit* the way you want the flavors to be, said Bob. The amount of each ingredient dictates the outcome. Too much of anything will spoil your version. And, if it doesn't come out the way you want, it's your fault.

Interesting market

The *unsoy* at the Mahogany market is only one of the interesting items there.

As soon as we entered, bottles of vinegar spelled out what it was made of—*kaong* or sugar palm.

Roving vendors offered us what was special for the day such as *pinipig*, pounded young rice kernels that you knew were dyed green because the color was too intense.

A tall stalk of coconut pith (*ubod*) looked so white and clean and made you wonder how many *lumpia* one such piece could make.

Ginger was not the dry pieces you often see. It looked freshly harvested with its red and green stalks still intact. Later, it made for a fresher-tasting and stronger ginger tea or *salabat*.

Also inside the market was the KKK Bakery, a community effort of the Kababaihan Kabalikat sa Kaunlaran. It makes not only the ordinary day-to-day bread but also wedding cakes, pizza pies and apple pies.

At one corner, vendors processed the *langka* so a buyer could have the fruit without getting his/her hands sticky.

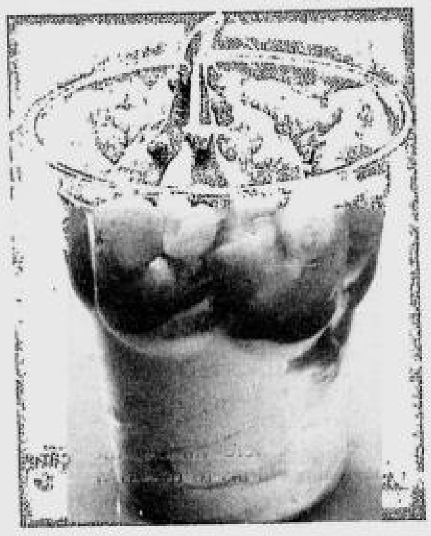
And because Batangas is known for its beef, huge carcasses were hanging from hooks. Some of those must have just been slaughtered because the muscles were still moving.

Beef parts for *bulalo* and *kare-kare*—hooves, tails and tripe—dominated one part of the meat section. The butchers informed me that only the tails of male cattle were sold because the females' had this too intense smell that couldn't be removed despite cleaning and cooking. A woman vendor washed the tripe like she was doing her daily laundry.

What a reward for being curious! I had peeped in to survey the market and rediscovered *unsoy*. I wished, though, that we had time to remake the Cavite *pancit luglog* that day, to recapture that distinct play of flavors from so many ingredients and that particular herb.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

THE RAINY Day Madness promo at The Coffee Beanery features Almond Butterscotch Freeze, an almond-based coffee concoction topped with "rocks" of butterscotch, and Orange Truffle Mocha, a blend of tangy citrus and sweet mocha, served with a stick of chocolate to satisfy the sweet-toothed. Available until Sept. 30 only. The Coffee Beanery is now open for franchising. Call or text 0917-8080953, or e-mail kcv_thecoffeebeanery@hotmail.com.



CRAVING ICE CREAM? Jollibee now serves Caramel Pastillas Sundae, soft-serve vanilla ice cream with chunks of chewy caramel and milk-rich *pastillas*, drizzled with thick and golden caramel syrup then topped with crunchy peanut bits. Cap a delicious meal with this P28 treat or enjoy it as a cool solo snack. Jollibee Sundae also comes in Chocolate and Rocky Road Brownie flavors. Call 87000 for delivery.

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TWO CLASSIC American brands, Hershey's and Krispy Kreme, team up to wow Filipinos with these four variants of chocolate donuts: Reese's Pieces & Kreme Doughnut, Hershey's Cookies 'n' Krème, Kremey Vanilla with Hershey's Special Dark Chocolate, Kremey Vanilla with Hershey's Milk Chocolate with Almonds. Available until Aug. 31 at Krispy Kreme outlets at Bonifacio High Street, SM Megamall and Greenhills.

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4th Platter:
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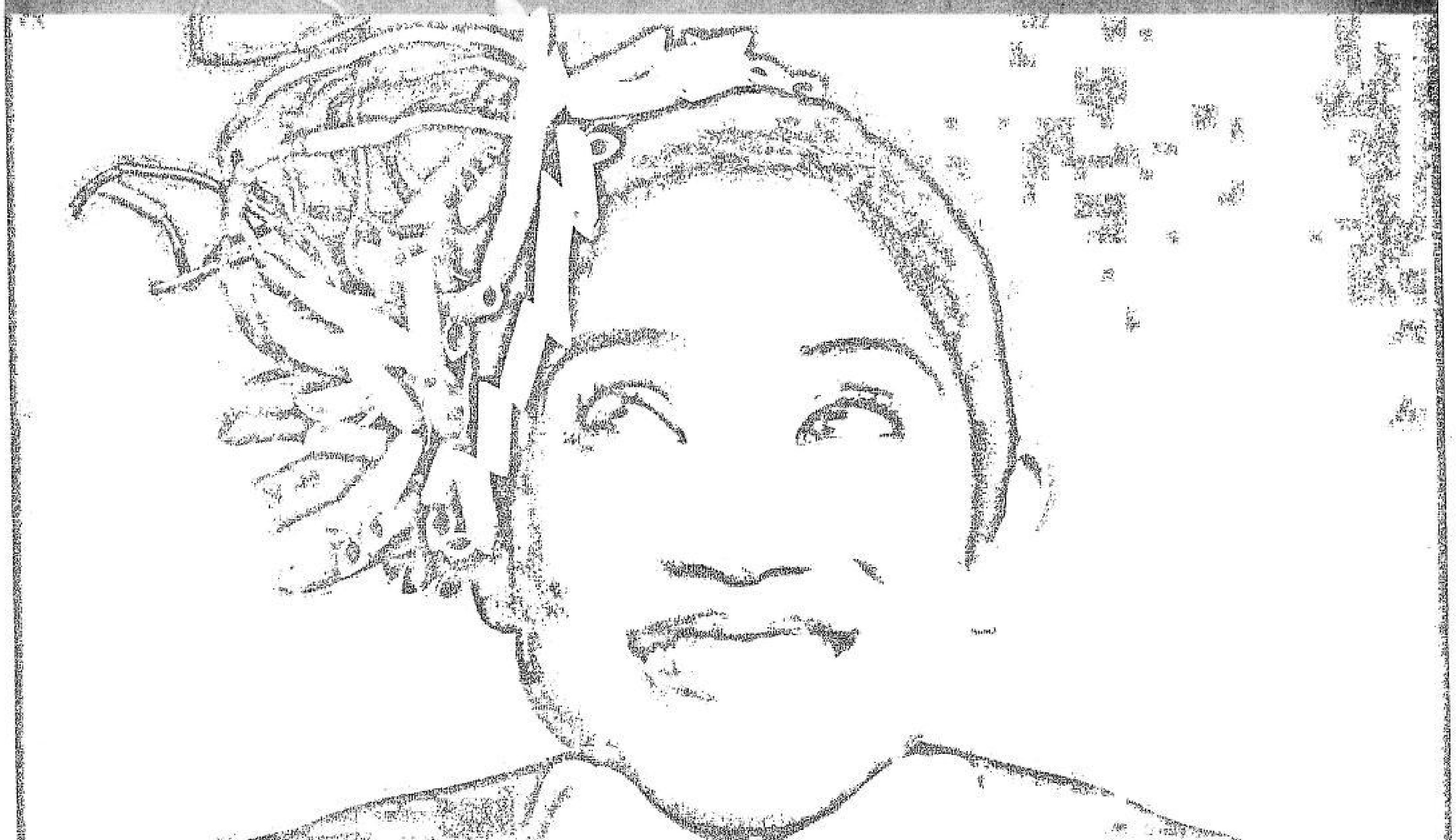

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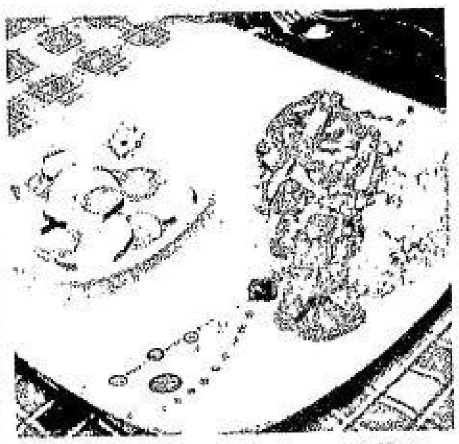
LALAINE Lim, Enzo Cantimbuhan and Kim Santos of De La Salle-College of St. Benilde bag the top prize in The Great Century Tuna Trio Challenge.

ST. BENILDE'S winning tuna platter: Tuna Tamarind and Red Egg in Pesto and Hummus Sandwich with Pumpkin Chips; Tuna and Oatmeal Croquettes with Tamarind Vinaigrette; and Tuna and Crab Paste Pasta with Red Egg and Toasted Oats



MA. THERESA Mena's Mexican-style Tuna, champion recipe in The Ultimate Century Tuna Ulam Showdown

MARIE and Elias Miguel Pascual's Tuna Stuffed Surprise, winner in the Creative Century Tuna Sandwich-Making category

The Century Tuna Culinary Showdown displays again the delicious virtues of the popular fish

Tasty tuna takes

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Lucky Besa

SHEER TALENT, skill and determination to win won for the hotel and restaurant management student team of De La Salle University-College of St. Benilde the top prize at the recent two-day Century Tuna Culinary Showdown held at the crowded Glorietta Activity Center in Makati.

The team of students Lorenzo Cantimbuhan and Lalaine Lim with coach Russel Kim Santos showed off their culinary inventiveness through their unique tuna recipes for salad, sandwich and pasta.

The grand prize winners, who brought home P30,000 plus P20,000 for the school, painstakingly whipped up a platter of Tuna and Oatmeal Croquettes with Tamarind Vinaigrette; Tuna Tamarind and Red Egg in Pesto and Hummus Sandwich with Pumpkin Chips; and Tuna and Crab Paste Pasta with Red Egg and Toasted Oats.

"We were given a very limited time to prepare the dishes, but we basically knew what to do, how to execute it and utilize all the ingredients given to us," said Santos.

The group, instructed like the other contestants to work with tuna as main ingredient, wowed the mall audience and judges with their creative use of crab paste and salted egg in their dishes, making the meal more delectable and visually appealing.

Annual contest

The annual Century Tuna culinary competition aims to show to consumers how versatile tuna can be. It's healthy and can be a substitute for meat ingredients.

"Tuna is a very flexible dish," said Thea Tan, senior product manager of Century Tuna. "It's not fish that's boring and bland. It can be exciting and delicious especially with all the variants Century Tuna has in the market today."

During the competition, the contestants were free to use any of these Century Tuna variants: Century Tuna Solid in Water, Solid in Vegetable Oil, Chunks in Water, Chunks in Vegetable Oil, Chunks Spanish Style, Flakes in Vegetable Oil, Hot & Spicy, and Flakes with Lemon and Butter.

The first runner-up prize of P20,000 went to the team of Raymund Carlos, Kenyren Rey Reyes and coach Edilberto Tawagon of the University of Regina Carmeli (Malolos, Bulacan). They presented Hearty Tuna and Micro Greens in Coco Coffee White Wine Vinaigrette; Pan-Grilled Tuna and Whole-Wheat Sandwich with Coco Cream Coffee Sauce and Roasted Muesli; and Chunky Tuna and Pasta with Mocha Cream and Roasted Muesli.

The St. Paul University-Quezon City team, composed of Kris Jocson, Tosca Yatco and coach Joanne Admana, grabbed second runner-up place with its Asian Salad with Wansoy Green Tea Dressing; Spanish-style Tuna Sandwich with Mustard Vinaigrette Dressing; and Tuna Penne Pasta with Peach Jasmine Green Tea Veloute Sauce.

In third runner-up place were Marie Reyes, Louie de Guzman and coach Liza Magkasi of the Colegio de San Juan De Letran, their entries consisting of Tuna Salad in Mushroom Sauce; Tuna Burger; and Tuna Penne in Crab Paste.

As the teams presented their creations to the judges, they offered a brief explanation of their dishes. Judges were chefs Rolando Laudico, Eugene Raymundo, Mike J. Oberle and Sam de Leoz, who was chair.

Amateurs, too

Aside from the culinary students, the cooking tilt featured food enthusiasts in the amateur division. The Ultimate Century Tuna Ulam Showdown presented four participants with their original *ulam* with rice recipe. Each entry had vegetables as sidings, a sauce and garnish.

Grand prize winner was Ma. Theresa Mena. She won P20,000 for her Century Tuna Mexican-style Tuna.

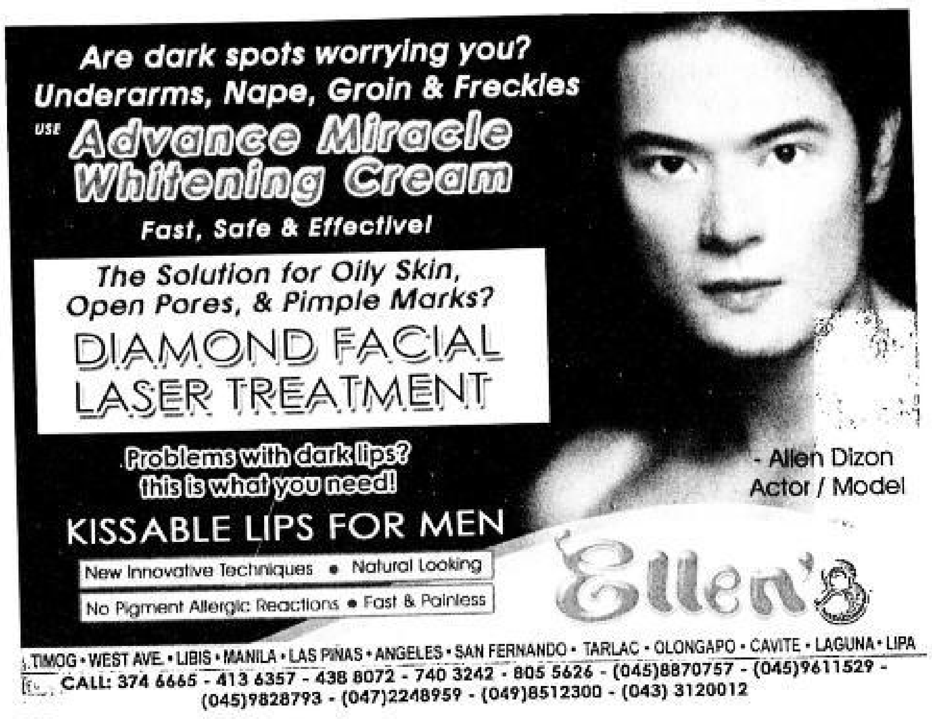
David Evangelista's Sesame Tuna in Spicy Lychee Sauce was first runner-up with P12,000. Second- runner up was Jocelyn Ching, who got P8,000 for her Tuna Cake with Mango Sauce. Third runner-up was Joanne Estrella, who took home P5,000 for her Golden Patty.

Judges were food writer Joy Subido; Celebrity Recipes editor Linda de Leon; Century Pacific Group corporate research and development manager Daisy Engle; and chef De Leoz

The second day saw another exciting showdown involving professionals and, for the first time, parent-and-child teams.

Parents and their children meticulously worked hand in

TASTY/ D3



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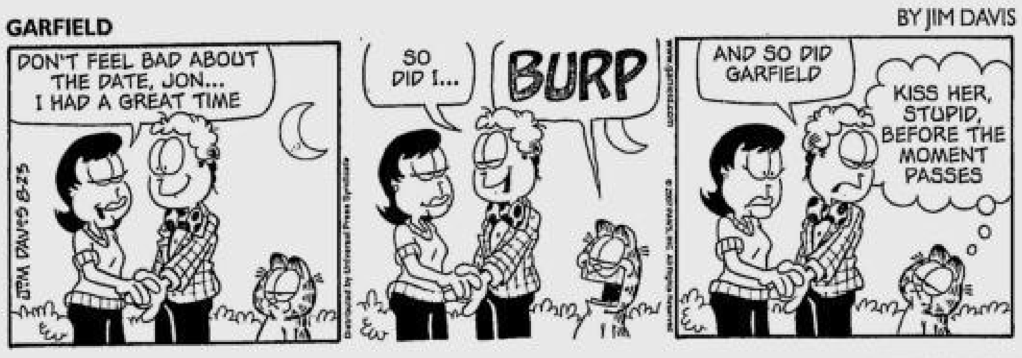
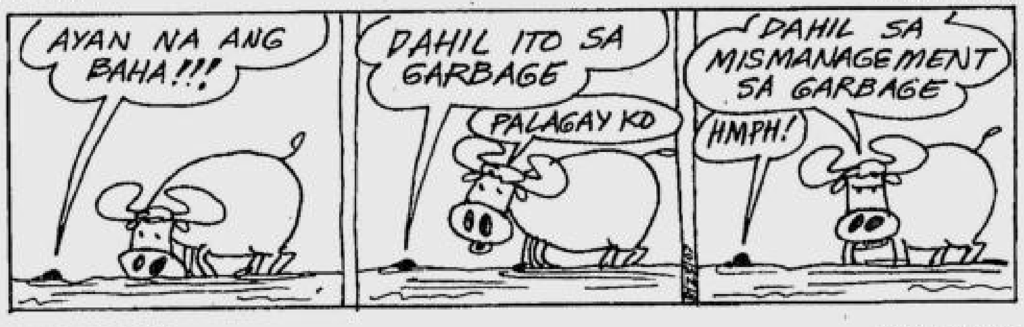
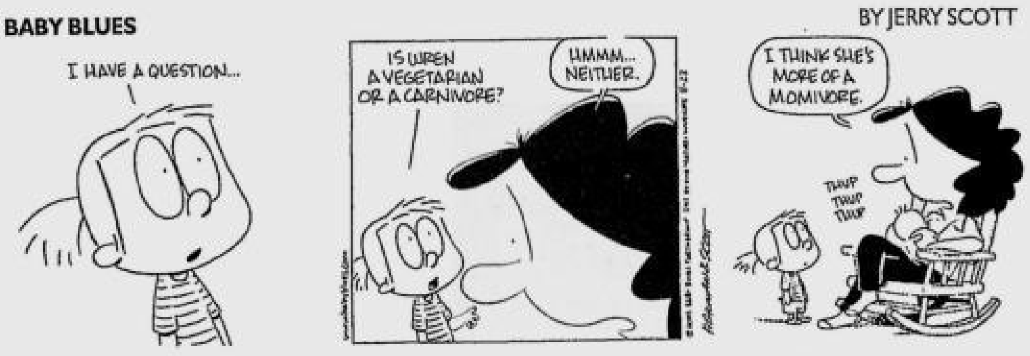
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS


DON'T FEEL BAD ABOUT THE DATE, JON... I HAD A GREAT TIME
SO DID I...
BURP
AND SO DID GARFIELD
KISS HER, STUPID, BEFORE THE MOMENT PASSES
JIM DAVIS 8-23

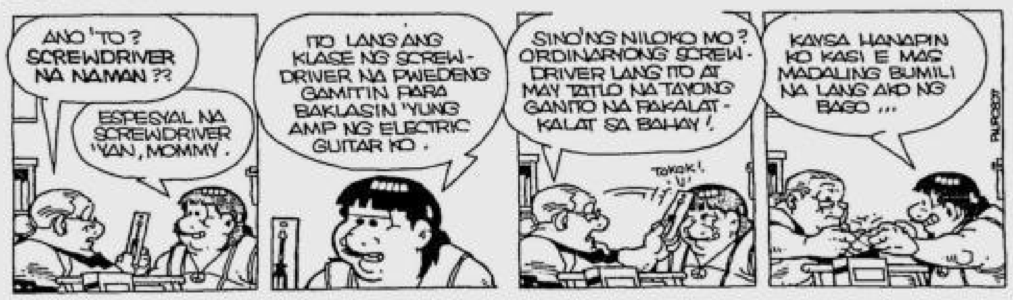
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


AYAN NA ANG BAHA!!!
DAHIL ITO SA GARBAGE
PALAGAY KO
DAHIL SA MISMANAGEMENT SA GARBAGE
HMPH!

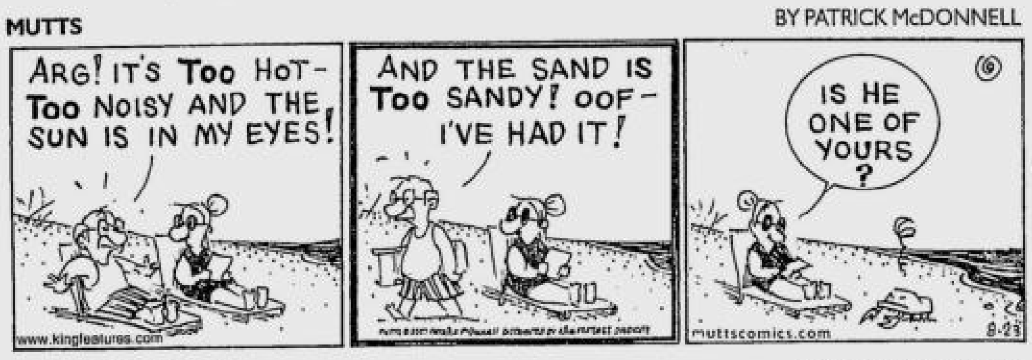
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


I HAVE A QUESTION...
IS WREN A VEGETARIAN OR A CARNIVORE?
HMMM... NEITHER.
I THINK SHE'S MORE OF A MOMIVORE.
THUP THUP THUP

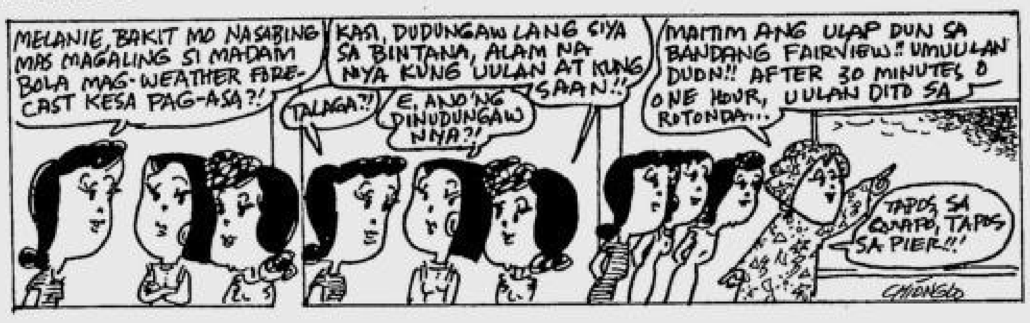
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO 'TO? SCREWDRIVER NA NAMAN ??
ESPESYAL NA SCREWDRIVER 'YAN, MOMMY.
ITO LANG ANG KLASE NG SCREW-DRIVER NA PWEDENG GAMITIN PARA BAKLASIN 'YUNG AMP NG ELECTRIC GUITAR KO.
SINO'NG NILOKO MO? ORDINARYONG SCREW-DRIVER LANG ITO AT MAY TATLO NA TAYONG GANITO NA PAKALAT-KALAT SA BAHAY!
TOKOK!
KAYSA HANAPIN KO KASI E MAS MADALING BUMILI NA LANG AKO NG BAGO ...

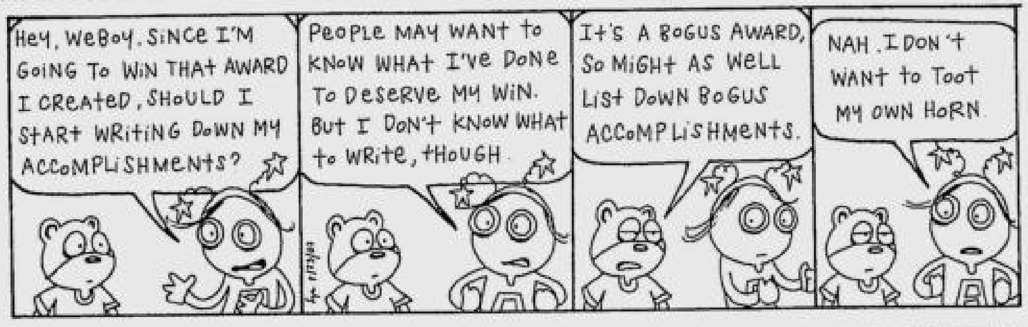
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ARG! IT'S TOO HOT- TOO NOISY AND THE SUN IS IN MY EYES!
AND THE SAND IS TOO SANDY! OOF- I'VE HAD IT!
IS HE ONE OF YOURS ?
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
8-23

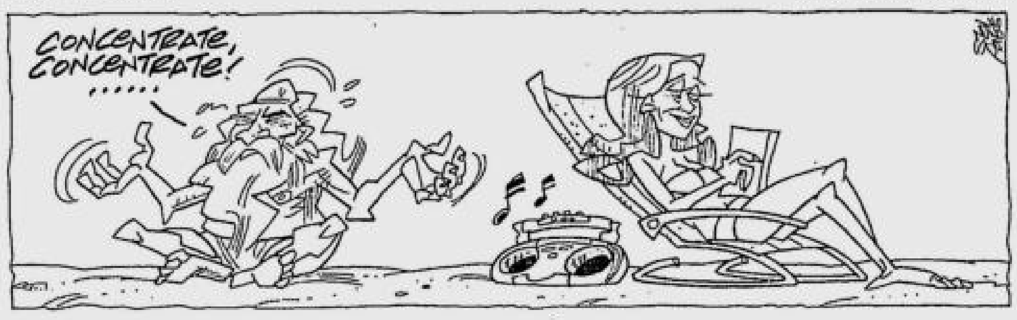
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MELANIE, BAKIT MO NASABING MAS MAGALING SI MADAM BOLA MAG-WEATHER FORE-CAST KESA PAG-ASA?!
TALAGA?!
E, ANO'NG DINUDUNGAW NIYA?!
KASI, DUDUNGAW LANG SIYA SA BINTANA, ALAM NA NIYA KUNG UULAN AT KUNG SAAN!!
MAITIM ANG ULAP DUN SA BANDANG FAIRVIEW!! UMUULAN DUON!! AFTER 30 MINUTES O ONE HOUR, UULAN DITO SA ROTONDA...
TAPOS SA QUIAPO, TAPOS SA PIER!!
CHIONGLO

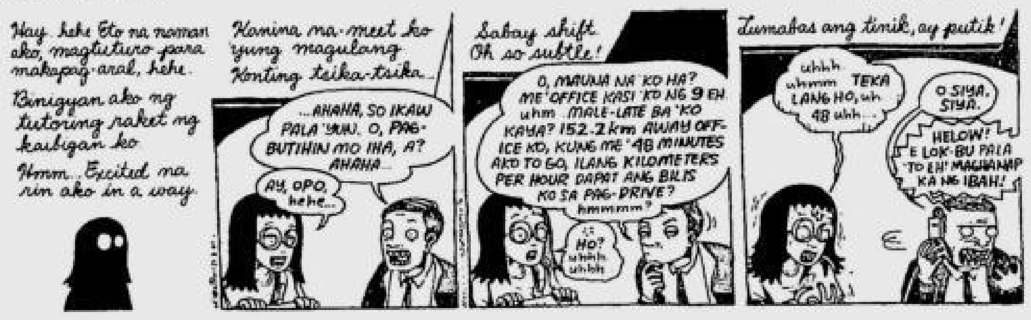
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, WeBoy. Since I'M GoING To WiN THAT AWARD I CREATED, SHOULD I START WRiTiNG DoWN MY ACCoMPLiSHMeNTs?
People MAY WANT to KNoW WHAT I'Ve DoNe To DeSeRVe MY WiN. But I DoN'T KNoW WHAT to WRiTe, THoUGH
IT'S A BoGUS AWARD, So MiGHT AS WeLL LiST DoWN BoGUS ACCoMPLiSHMeNTS.
NAH. I DoN'T WANT to Toot MY oWN HoRN

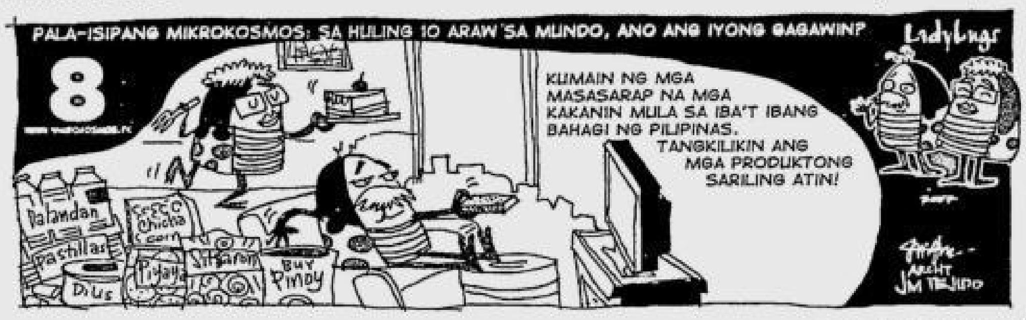
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


CONCENTRATE, CONCENTRATE!
......

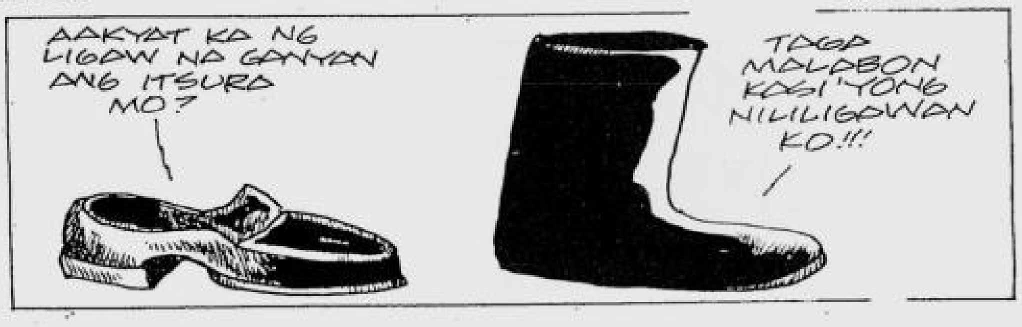
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


Hay. hehe Eto na naman ako, magtuturo para makapag-aral, hehe.
Binigyan ako ng tutoring raket ng kaibigan ko
Hmm.. Excited na rin ako in a way
Kanina ma-meet ko yung magulang Konting tsika-tsika
...AHAHA, SO IKAW PALA 'YUN. O, PAG-BUTIHIN MO IHA, A? AHAHA...
AY, OPO, hehe...
Sabay shift Oh so subtle!
O, MAUNA NA KO HA? ME' OFFICE KASI 'KO NG 9 EH uhm ...MALE-LATE BA 'KO KAYA? 152.2 km AWAY OFF-ICE KO, KUNG ME '48 MINUTES AKO TO GO, ILANG KILOMETERS PER HOUR DAPAT ANG BILIS KO SA PAG-DRIVE? hmmmm?
HO? uhhh uhhh
Lumabas ang tinik, ay putik!
uhhh uhmm TEKA LANG HO, uh 48 uhh...
O SIYA, SIYA.
HELOW! E LOK-BU PALA TO EH! MAGHANAP KA NG IBAH!

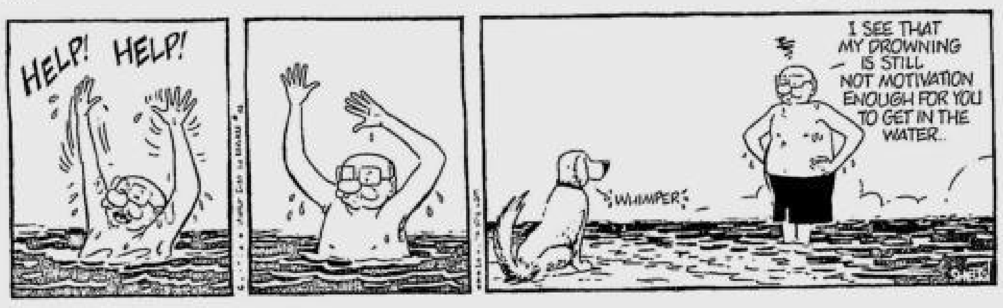
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PALA-ISIPANG MIKROKOSMOS: SA HULING 10 ARAW SA MUNDO, ANO ANG IYONG GAGAWIN?
8
Ladybugs
KUMAIN NG MGA MASASARAP NA MGA KAKANIN MULA SA IBA'T IBANG BAHAGI NG PILIPINAS.
TANGKILIKIN ANG MGA PRODUKTONG SARILING ATIN!
Dalandan
Pastillas
Chicha Corn
Piyaya
Sitsaron
Dilis
Buy Pinoy

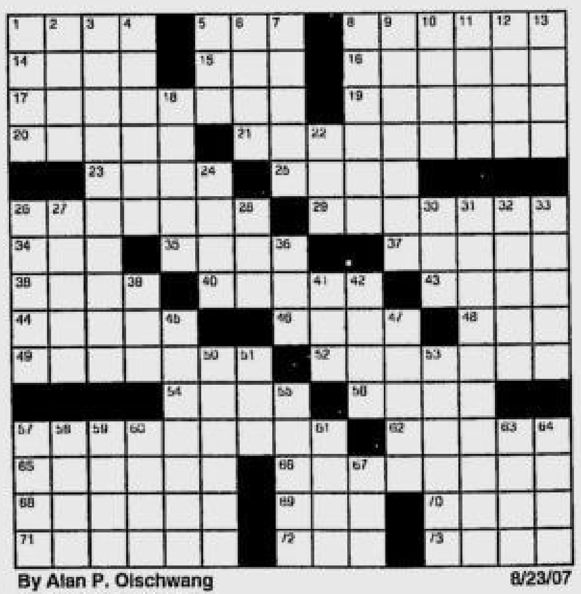
TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AAKYAT KA NG LIGAW NA GANYAN ANG ITSURA MO?
TAGA MALABON KASI 'YONG NILILIGAWAN KO!!!

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HELP! HELP!
WHIMPER
I SEE THAT MY DROWNING IS STILL NOT MOTIVATION ENOUGH FOR YOU TO GET IN THE WATER.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

8/23/07

ACROSS
1 Passing fancies
5 Scale amts.
8 Grayish olive green
14 NYC theatrical award
15 Expression of satisfaction
16 Follows, as advice
17 Start of Evan Esar quote
19 Part 2 of quote
20 Leave out in elocution
21 Museum workers
23 Bright sign
25 Reuben shoppe
26 Part 3 of quote
29 Continued a subscription
34 On the mark
35 Clip
37 Jelly choice
38 Tim or Beryl
40 Part 4 of quote
43 Sailing
44 Sci-fi flick cast member
46 Pop, to some
48 AT&T part
49 Carpenters, at times
52 Part 5 of quote
54 Felines
56 Greenside hazard
57 Utopians
62 Muse of poetry
65 Part 6 of quote
66 End of quote
68 Veep from Tennessee
69 Tony Randall movie, "7 Faces of Doctor __"
70 Gallant guy
71 Did salon work
72 Id companion
73 Units of work

DOWN
1 Duffer's shout
2 First victim
3 Decrease
4 Planter's tool
5 Experimental rm.
6 Max or Buddy
7 Evidence unit?
8 Snake's warning
9 Reverberating
10 Kind of crazy?
11 Latin being
12 Entrance
13 Miller and Martin
18 Cat's calls
22 Sun. oration
24 Half of Mork's sign-off
26 Sites for some sales
27 Massenet work
28 Little yelp
30 Important time
31 Some trash
32 Fencers' foils
33 Distributed cards
36 Qt. fractions
39 Accomplished
41 Fireplace shelf
42 Emulate Perry White
45 Assert
47 Come to terms
50 Lifted
51 Ave. crossers
53 House attachment
55 Swiped
57 Lupino and Tarbell
58 Blockhead
59 Like a souffle
60 Mil. hooky-player
61 Fly in the ointment
63 Chinawood oil
64 Makes a choice
67 Dove's call

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

M	E	C	C	A	■	S	H	A	G	■	A	L	A	S
S	C	O	R	E	■	L	E	N	A	■	L	I	N	T
G	U	L	A	G	■	A	L	A	R	■	E	T	N	A
■	■	■	F	I	L	M	D	I	R	E	C	T	O	R
T	S	E	T	S	E	■	■	S	I	N	■	L	Y	E
R	E	D	■	■	O	F	F	■	S	T	R	E	S	S
A	R	E	T	E	■	A	U	R	O	R	A	■	■	■
■	B	R	A	N	C	H	M	A	N	A	G	E	R	■
■	■	■	T	R	A	D	E	R	■	P	U	R	E	E
C	O	H	E	I	R	■	S	A	R	■	■	O	N	E
O	N	O	■	C	E	L	■	■	E	D	I	S	O	N
R	A	N	C	H	F	O	R	E	M	A	N	■	■	■
O	G	E	E	■	R	O	A	N	■	C	U	B	I	T
N	E	S	T	■	E	N	Z	O	■	H	I	L	D	A
A	R	T	E	■	E	Y	E	S	■	A	T	T	A	R

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8/23/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have the warm, social qualities of Leo combined with the intellectual sharpness of Virgo. You're shrewd and practical; and you are an excellent communicator. People are drawn to you because they know you're understanding. You have a strong desire to succeed in whatever you do. Work hard to construct or build something in your year ahead because your achievements will soon follow.

Birthdate of: Jay Mohr, comedian/actor; Eliza Carthy, English folk musician; Shelley Long, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a busy day. Try to be aware of what you're doing, because you might agree to more than you can handle. (Be careful about agreements and promises you make to others.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): If shopping today, keep your receipts. You might go overboard in some way. It's easy to overestimate your financial situation. Try to pull in your reins a little.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You've got big ideas today! If these ideas involve the cooperation of others, make sure that these people are really on board with you. Don't promise more than you can deliver.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Feelings of compassion make you want to help a friend in need today. This is good. Life can be tough, and kindness is the most important thing.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're enthusiastic about your goals. You have big ideas for your future. Make sure you know what you're doing before you get other people involved in your plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're very ambitious today! (Others can see this as well.) Confidence in yourself and in what you're doing will inspire others to follow you today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Try to do something different or out of your ordinary routine. You want adventure, and you want to learn something new. Travel anywhere if you can, or sign up for a course

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't count your chickens before they're barbecued. It's easy to expect too much from others today, especially if you are dividing shared property.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You like to think big; it's in your nature. However, be careful that you don't bite off more than you can chew. Think very carefully before you agree to anything with partners and close friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You can get a lot done at work today. You're enthusiastic about what you're doing. You feel confident and successful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a wonderful day for sports, love and romance, vacations, creative activities and exploring opportunities in show business or the entertainment world. Basically, you want to have fun!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Home projects might overwhelm you today. Don't take on more than you can handle. Finish what is already on your plate before you begin something new.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

9	4			6			3	8
8				9				5
		6				4		
7				2				4
			8		5			
5				1				7
		2				5		
6				5				9
4	1			8			2	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/23

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

3	8	1	4	9	2	6	7	5
2	5	4	3	6	7	1	8	9
9	7	6	1	8	5	3	2	4
7	6	2	9	3	4	5	1	8
8	3	5	7	1	6	4	9	2
4	1	9	5	2	8	7	3	6
5	2	3	8	4	1	9	6	7
1	4	8	6	7	9	2	5	3
6	9	7	2	5	3	8	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

FIRST runner-up. Edilberto Tawagon, Kenyren Rey Reyes and Raymund Carlos of the University of Regina Cameli, Malolos, Bulacan

SECOND runner-up. Kris Jocson, Tosca Yatco and Joanne Admana of St. Paul University-QC

THIRD runner-up. Marie Reyes, Louie de Guzman and Liza Magkasi of Colegio San Juan De Letran

Tasty tuna takes

From page D1

HEARTY Tuna and Micro Greens in Coco Coffee White Wine Vinaigrette by University of Regina Carmeli

hand to whip up original sandwich recipes in the Creative Century Tuna Sandwich-Making category.

The mother-and-son team of Marie and Elias Miguel Pascual grabbed the championship title for Tuna Stuffed Surprise. First runner-up went to Rosanna and Roxanne Angeles for their Sloppy Tuna Sandwich.

Geraldine and Eliseo Lozada and their Tuna Salad Sandwich won second runner-up. Maria Theresa and Stephanie Selga and their Soft Tuna Taco Sandwich were third-runner up.

Judges for the sandwich-making category were cookbook author Vicky Veloso; Yummy editor Becky Kho and food columnist Ernest Gala; and chef De Leoz.

In a more nerve-wracking contest among professionals, chefs from the Duo Steakhouse and Wine Bar at The Fort brought home the top prize of P40,000 in the Iron Chef Date Plate category.

Executive chef Ding Lazona and chef de partie Ervin Martinez dished out Marinated Tuna and Soy Tomato Salsa (amuse-bouche); Tuna Cake Salad with Oyster and Green Tea (hors d'oeuvre); Tuna Rolls and Tomato Coulies (entrée); and Tuna Yema Roulade with Mango and Vanilla Sauce (dessert).

First runner-up went to Chito Flores and Alfred Atienza of Lotus Garden Manila who prepared Breaded Tuna Ragu with Mandarin Teriyaki Glaze; Century Tuna Ala Fallafel with Miso Mirin and Grass Jelly Mayo; Tuna Cake with Miso Crab Sauce and Tomato Confit; and Poached Peach in Red Wine infused with Ginger Ala Mode. They bagged P20,000.

Gerry's Grill's Alfredo Redoblado and Cesar Aguilar won the second runner-up for Tuna Balls with Crab Paste and Coco Cream; Saffron Pasta a la Tuna; Tuna Surprise with Coco Cream Sauce; and Fruit Compote with Coco Nutilla Sauce as their winning entries. They won P15,000.

Rodante Cruz and Henry Lucino of Seafoods Asia took the third runner-up prize of P10,000 cash for their concoction of Deep-fried Tuna, White Tuna, Wild Tuna and Sweet Muesli.

Judges were Yoshinoya operations manager Logie Logarta; culinary instructor Dennis Hipolito; PC&V Communications president Socky Pitargue and chef De Leoz.

The contestant chefs were also asked to prepare their recipes using at least a product of the contest sponsors, such as Angel Evaporated Filled Milk and Condensada, Cream All-Purpose Flour and Cornstarch, Good Life Sauces, Ideal Premium Pasta, and Jolly canned vegetables and fruits.

All participants were judged according to ease of preparation, innovation, extent of use of products and unique but sensible combination of ingredients.

COOKING CLASSES

Ribs & burgers

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS SCHOOL OF Culinary Arts will conduct the following classes:

Aug. 23—Racks of Ribs—Baby Back Ribs '07 (all new): Learn the techniques to making delicious ribs! 8 homemade barbecue sauces—Teriyaki, Honey Mustard, Brown Sugar, Sticky Ribs, Chili Spice, Beer, Garlic, Texas; four side dishes, dessert; iced tea concoctions

Aug. 25—Burger Buffet '07 (special class, all new): Wagyu Beef Burgers a la Adria, Chorizo Burgers, Mushrooms Burgers, Turkey Burgers, Lamb Burgers, Seafood Burgers; two homemade bread buns, fixin's, side dishes, sauces, condiments like never before

Aug. 27—Asian Breakfasts '07 (all new): Kaya Jam on Toast; Japanese-style Congee; Breakfast Mee Goreng (stir-fried noodle) with Steamed Brown Sugar Cake with Salted Eggs; Fried Radish and Sausage Cakes; Suman (Breakfast Suman with Minced Meat and Eggs, Suman sa Lihiya with Salabat)

Aug. 29—Work Wonders with Tofu & Tempeh: 14 tofu recipes that will teach you to use all kinds of tofu and tempeh—appetizer, soup, salad, main course, dessert (Tofu Cheesecake)

Call 9289296, 9273008 or 6335162.

Italian specialties

For the month of August, The Maya Kitchen offers the following culinary courses:

Aug. 25—Italian Pasta: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.—Chicken Ragout with handmade Stracchi Pasta, Confit Pork Belly, Saffron Pasta with Angel Hair Pasta, Vegetarian Pasta, Pancetta & Mushroom with workshop on preparing handmade fresh Pasta (P1,000)

Aug. 25—Coffee 101 (Barista Class): 2-6 p.m. coverage—Coffee History, Coffee Process, Troubleshooting, Machine know-how, proper grinding. Techniques to perfect froth. Actual preparation of popular Traditional Hot Coffee Concoction: Espresso, Cappuccino, Latte, etc. Cold Coffee Concoctions and Spins (P1,500)

Aug. 28-30—Fundamentals of Bakery Production: 2-7 p.m. Basic and commercial baking techniques applicable to the use of various ready mixes, yeast breads, quick breads, pies, cookies and cakes; including theory practice for commercial scale productions with free baking cookbook (P5,000)

Call Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday) at 8/F, Liberty Bldg., A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Rd.), Makati. Call 8921185 or 8925011 local 108; or e-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph.

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ACTIVITIES and PRODUCT PRESENTATIONS

Sept. 5, 2007 (Wednesday)
2:30-3:30 pm • How Handyware Can Help you to Start or Expand Your Toll-Packing Business
2:30-3:30 pm • Rapid Automatic Analyzer
4:00-5:00 pm • Product Presentation & Cooking Demo by Sunnex
4:00-6:30 pm • Nitrogen Gas for Modified Atmosphere Packaging
4:00-6:30 pm • Product Presentation by French Chamber of Commerce
5:30-6:30 pm • Taho Making and Ways of Preparing Healthy Soy Beverages
Sept. 6, 2007 (Thursday)
10:30-11:30 am • Minimum Requirements for a Food Analysis Laboratory
10:30-11:30 am • Product Presentation by Clearpack Phils. Inc.
11:00-12:00 nn • Product Presentation & Cooking Demo by Fly Ace Corporation
1:00-2:00 pm • Features, Advantages & Benefits of Induction in Cooperation with MICHA
1:00-2:00 pm • Product Presentation by Clearpack Phils. Inc.
1:00-2:00 pm • Water Activity- A Key Parameter for Self Life of Food
2:30-3:30 pm • Developing "Shelf-Stable" Functional Beverages and Sauces
2:30-3:30 pm • Business Opportunity Seminar By San Miguel Pure Foods - Great Food Solutions
2:30-3:30 pm • Nutritious, Convenient and Hassle Free Recipes... Sunbest Style
4:00-5:00 pm • Developing your Own Perfume & Scented Candles Business
4:00-7:00 pm • Advance Kjeldahl Protein Analysis
5:30-6:30 pm • Product Presentation by American Foods
Sept. 7, 2007 (Friday)
10:30-11:30 am • Real Italian Gelato Production Flavors & Sauces
10:30-11:30 am • Viscosity Measurement- Solution to Many of your Problems
11:00-12:00 nn • Product Presentation & Cooking Demo by Fly Ace Corporation
1:00-2:00 pm • Product Presentation by French Chamber of Commerce
1:00-2:00 pm • Dough Investment High Returns
1:00-2:00 pm • Product Presentation by JMCC Industries, Inc.
2:30-3:30 pm • Product Presentation by A.B Maun Foods
2:30-3:30 pm • The Answer to your Marking and Coding Needs
2:30-3:30 pm • Kusinang Kraft
4:00-5:00 pm • 101 Ways to Cook Your Bounty Fresh Chicken
4:00-6:30 pm • Product Presentation by Hastamat Verpackungstechnik Asia
4:00-6:30 pm • Mega Profit In The Coffee Business
5:30-6:30 pm • It's a Soy World
Sept. 8, 2007 (Saturday)
10:30-11:30 am • Prevention of Scale Formation on Process Boilers
1:00-2:00 pm • How to Put Up a Basic Lab
2:30-3:30 pm • Flavor Innovation

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
Grand Barista Cup Competition
Sept. 6 - 4:00 pm @ Activity Area
Nestle Ice Cream Scoopetition
Sept. 5 - 11:00 am @ Activity Area
Favorite Restaurant and Café Recipes: Decoding the Chef's Secrets
featuring Chef Heny Sison
by San Miguel Pure Foods - GFS
Sept. 8 - 1:30 pm @ Activity Area

REPLY FORM ☐ YES, I would like to attend the seminar(s)
Date: ____ Time: ____
Topic: ____
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KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

Watch your tempeh

HELLO AGAIN, MARLO!

Marlo had previously asked us for new food ideas for his wife who is pregnant and has gestational diabetes.

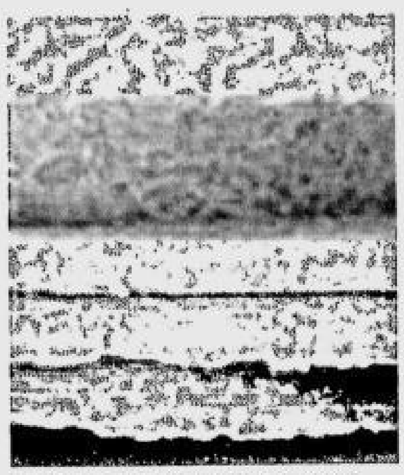
For starters, you can practice *tempeh*-rance in your diet. For a good source of protein for your wife, try *tempeh*.

Thanks to the Culinary Education Foundation and the Sta. Maria Della Strada Social Services Development Ministry, *tempeh* is finally being made here under the tutelage and guidance of the United States Department of Agriculture kitchens.

Among vegans, *tempeh* is nothing new. Known as Javanese/vegan meat, it is an Indonesian staple that originated in Java. It is made by fermenting soybeans with RAGI or rhizopus oligporous yeast.

Like tofu, it is made from soy beans. *Tempeh* comes in blocks laden with whole soybeans while tofu is made of puréed soy beans. *Tempeh* is textured and firmer, with a more intense flavor (nuttier/woodier) than tofu. It is sold plain or seasoned with seaweeds, sesame seeds, dried vegetables, etc. for added flavor.

According to the Soy Foods Association of North America, "a serving of soy *tempeh* is an excellent source of dietary fiber and soy protein. It is also a good source of folic acid, potassium, and iron. Important bio-active components called isoflavones and saponins, found naturally in soybeans, are being studied in relationship to relief of menopause symptoms, such as hot flashes, maintaining healthy bones, and preventing prostate and breast cancers."


TEMPEH comes in blocks laden with whole soybeans.

The SFANA also says, "*Tempeh* is a healthy, high-quality protein source that contains all essential amino acids for growth. Soy protein is equal in quality to meat, milk and egg protein, and comes without saturated fat and cholesterol. It helps reduce the risk of heart disease by lowering blood cholesterol and increasing the flexibility of blood vessels."

Tempeh can be prepared steamed, fried and sauteed. It easily takes on the flavors added to it while cooking and makes an excellent substitute for meat so *tempeh adobo*, burger or steak are not far-fetched ideas.

Store *tempeh* sealed and refrigerated. Frozen, *tempeh* will remain edible for up to two months. Call 0917-8213484 or 929-7790 c/o Super Manang's.

Here are two recipes from among the many ways of healthy cooking with *tempeh*.

Tempeh Spring Rolls

(*By Thad Gayanelo*)

20 sheets spring roll wrappers
500 g *tempeh*, diced
200 g vermicelli noodles, soaked in water and cut up
3 pc dried woodear mushrooms (*tenga ng daga*), soaked in water and sliced
½ c onions, chopped
3 stalks green onions, sliced fine
200 g water chestnuts, chopped
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine and season.

Put 2 tbsp of mixture near edge of spring roll wrapper and roll.

Deep-fry and drain on paper towels.

Arrange spring rolls on lettuce bed and serve with dipping sauce.

Dipping Sauce—Calamansi and Fish Sauce

6 pc bird's peak/eye (*siling labuyo*), chopped
5 cloves garlic, minced
½ c white sugar
1½ c warm water
10 tbsp calamansi juice
½ c fish sauce
2 tbsp carrots, finely grated

Pound chili, garlic and sugar in a mortar.

Transfer to a bowl and add the rest of the ingredients. Mix well.

Serve with spring rolls.

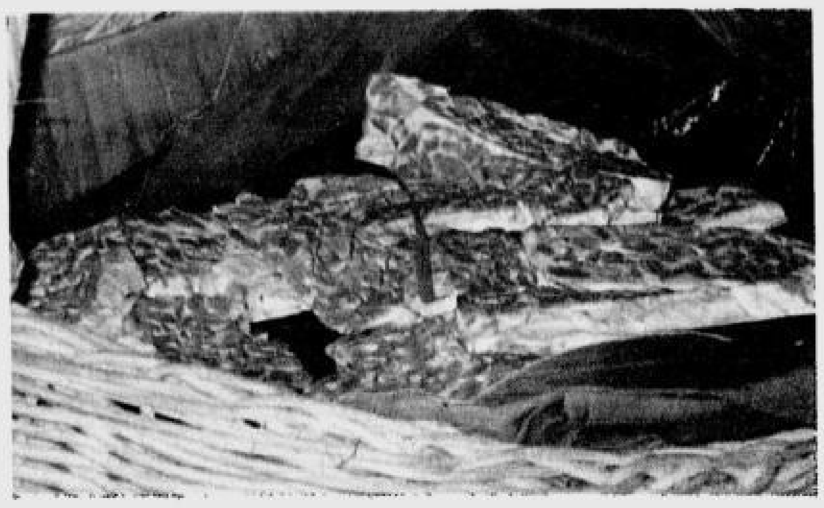
And here are some of my favorite *tempeh* recipes.

Tempeh with Peanut Sauce

1 slab *tempeh*, cube, deep fry until golden, drain on paper towels

Sauce:

2 tbsp sugar
¼ tsp salt
¼ c peanut butter
1/3 c stock
1 tsp ground fresh chili paste
¼ c cilantro, coarsely chopped
4 lime leaves, julienne
Fish sauce


TEMPEH, **known as Javanese/vegan meat, is an Indonesian staple that originated in Java.**

Combine ingredients in a saucepan and bring to a boil.

Season to taste with fish sauce, sugar and chilies.

Toss fried *tempeh*.

Garnish with chilies and cilantro sprigs.

Oriental Fried Tempeh Steak with Mushroom Sauce

6 sliced *tempeh*, sliced ¼- to ½-inch thick
¼ c soy sauce
2 tsp sugar
2 tbsp *mirin*

Combine sugar, *mirin* and soy sauce.

Marinate *tempeh* for at least 30 minutes.

Cornstarch for dredging *tempeh*

Dredge in cornstrach. Fry.

Sauce:

1½ c *dashi* soup stock or 1½ c water with 1 tbsp *dashi* powder
¼ c soy sauce
¼ c *mirin*
4 shiitake mushrooms, sliced
½ carrot, match sticks
½ small onion, sliced thin
1 pack *enoki*/snow mushrooms
Cornstarch slurry (¼ c water, 3 tsp cornstarch)

Combine *dashi*, soy sauce, *mirin* in a saucepan and bring to a boil. Add the rest of the ingredients.

Season to taste with sugar, salt and pepper. Thicken with slurry.

Serve atop fried *tempeh*. Garnish with green onions.

Tempeh with Dark Sweet Asian Prawns

1 slab *tempeh*, cubed, steamed 5 minutes and deep-fried until golden (this keeps *tempeh* moist inside). Drain on paper towels.
2 tbsp peanut oil
½ k medium white shrimps, peeled, tails left intact
1 tbsp fine chili sauce—Lee Kum Kee
1 tsp sesame oil
1 tbsp *kecap manis*—dark sweet soy sauce, ABC brand—Unimart/Santis
1 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp sugar
1 egg
1 c chopped green onions

Heat peanut oil. Add shrimps and cook until they change color. Add seasonings.

Push shrimps aside to one side of wok and break eggs, scramble.

When eggs have dried out, mix into prawns.

Add *tempeh* and green onions. Garnish with cilantro.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

Mad about mangoes

ITS HISTORY EVOKES TALES OF celebrated sweetness and countryside charm. In its early years, the Orchard Golf and Country Club (tels. 8438344-48) was known as a grove of mango trees. To this day, a significant number of mango trees, some dating back to a hundred years ago, continue to flourish in the fairways and greenery of the golf course. During summer's bountiful harvest, members of the Orchard may be treated to free mango shakes or supplied with bags of those freshly picked fruits.

As a reminder of its humble beginnings, the Orchard also delights its members with dishes featuring the mango at its dining facilities—Golfers Veranda, La Parilla, Taverna Verde, the Golfer's Lounge and the Bowling Cafe.

Here are two recipes from executive chef Elmer Fabella. Pork Adobo in Green Mango, wrapped in banana leaf, has a unique taste that comes from the balanced fusion of succulent pork ribs, vinegar and the zest of green mango. Mango Kimchi, patterned after the cabbage kimchi, is typically served as a side dish but is also a favorite for *pulutan*.

The Orchard Golf and Country Club is on Aguinaldo Highway in Dasmariñas Cavite.

Log on to www.theorchardgolf.com.

ADOBONG sa Manggang Hilaw has a unique taste that comes from the fusion of succulent pork ribs, vinegar and the zest of green mango.

Pork Adobo in Green Mango

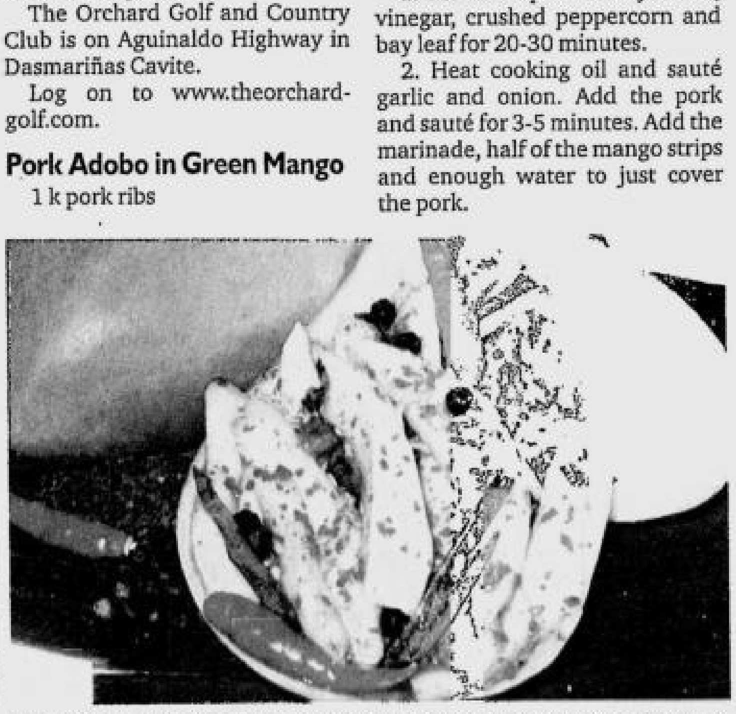
1 k pork ribs
500 g mango, semi-ripe or "manibalang"; cut into strips
100 g garlic, chopped
50 g onions
3 tbsp vinegar
1 c soy sauce
10 pc peppercorn
3 pc bay leaf
2 tbsp cornstarch
1½ tbsp cooking oil

1. Marinate pork in soy sauce, vinegar, crushed peppercorn and bay leaf for 20-30 minutes.
2. Heat cooking oil and sauté garlic and onion. Add the pork and sauté for 3-5 minutes. Add the marinade, half of the mango strips and enough water to just cover the pork.
3. Simmer for about 30-45 minutes or until pork meat is tender.
4. Remove the meat from the saucepot and set aside.
5. Reduce the sauce and add the cornstarch. Cook until it thickens.
6. Add the other half of the mango strips and continue cooking for 1 minute.
7. Arrange meat on a serving dish and pour sauce over it. Serves 5.

Mango Kimchi

1½ k mango, semi-ripe or "manibalang"
300 g chili powder
100 g garlic, chopped fine
50 g spring onions, cut into 1-in length
30 g ginger, fine julienne strips
1½ k brown sugar
20 g chili pepper
20 g peppercorn
6 oz fish sauce
1 k rock salt

1. Peel the mango and slice into thin strips.
2. Marinate mango in water and rock salt. Let stand for 20-30 minutes then drain well.
3. Prepare the marinade by mixing all the other ingredients except the mango and rock salt. Adjust the seasoning to taste.
4. In a stainless mixing bowl, mix the mango into the prepared kimchi marinade.
5. Chill for 24 hours. Serve.


PATTERNED after the cabbage kimchi, the Orchard's Mango Kimchi is also a favorite choice for "pulutan," and a tasty complement to Pinoy dishes.

Rainy days and heartwarming recipes

WHAT'S THE BEST ANTIDOTE TO RAINY day blues? Turn out warm, hearty entrées from the kitchen. The rainy season certainly stirs appetites for comforting favorites like steaming bowls of soup.

McCormick, the leading and largest spice company in the world, shares with Lifestyle readers the highest quality of flavors through these recipes using McCormick spices, mixes and extracts, available at all leading supermarkets nationwide.

For more recipes, e-mail flavor_kitchen@mccormick.com.ph or call 920-5291 loc 427.

Beef and Noodles in Smoked Tea Infused Broth

8 oz linguine
1 tsp McCormick Anise Seed
4 oz snow peas, cut into long thin strips
¼ tsp crushed red pepper
1 tsp oil
4 c beef broth
½ c sliced green onions
1½ c water
2 cloves garlic, minced
6 Lapsang Souchong tea bags
½ lb boneless beef sirloin steak, sliced into thin strips
Coarse sea salt

- Cook linguine in lightly salted water as directed on package for al dente, adding snow peas during last 1-2 minutes of cooking. Drain and rinse under cold water to stop cooking. Drain well. Divide among soup bowls.
- Meanwhile, heat oil in large deep skillet or Dutch oven on medium-high heat. Add steak; cook and stir 1-2 minutes or just until browned. Remove from skillet. Divide steak among soup bowls.
- Cook and stir green onions, garlic, anise seed and crushed red pepper in same skillet 1-2 minutes. Add broth and water; bring to boil. Remove from heat. Add tea bags; let stand for 5 minutes to steep. Remove tea bags. Ladle broth into soup bowls. Season to taste with sea salt. Serve immediately.

Cumin-rubbed Pork Tenderloin with Apricots

2 tsp McCormick Ground Cumin
2 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp McCormick Garlic Powder
1/3 c sweet sherry
1 tsp McCormick Paprika
1 c chicken broth
½ tsp McCormick Cracked Black Pepper
1 package (7 oz) dried apricots, cut in half
½ tsp coarse sea salt
2 tbsp sugar
2 pork tenderloins (about 1½-2 lbs)
¼ c (½ stick) cold butter, cut into chunks

- Mix cumin, garlic powder, paprika, pepper and sea salt in a small bowl. Rub evenly over pork tenderloins.
- Heat oil in large ovenproof skillet on medium-high heat. Add pork tenderloins; cook 3 minutes or until browned on all sides. Transfer skillet to preheated 400°F oven. Roast 20-25 minutes or just until desired doneness. Remove from oven. Place on serving platter; keep warm.
- Stir sherry into same skillet on medium heat, scraping browned bits from bottom of skillet. Stir in broth, apricots and sugar. Bring to boil; reduce heat and simmer about 5 minutes or until sauce is reduced by half. Stir in butter until melted and sauce is slightly thickened. Slice pork and serve with apricot mixture.

BEEF and Noodles in Smoked Tea Infused Broth

Braised Chicken with Mustard, Fennel and Tomatoes

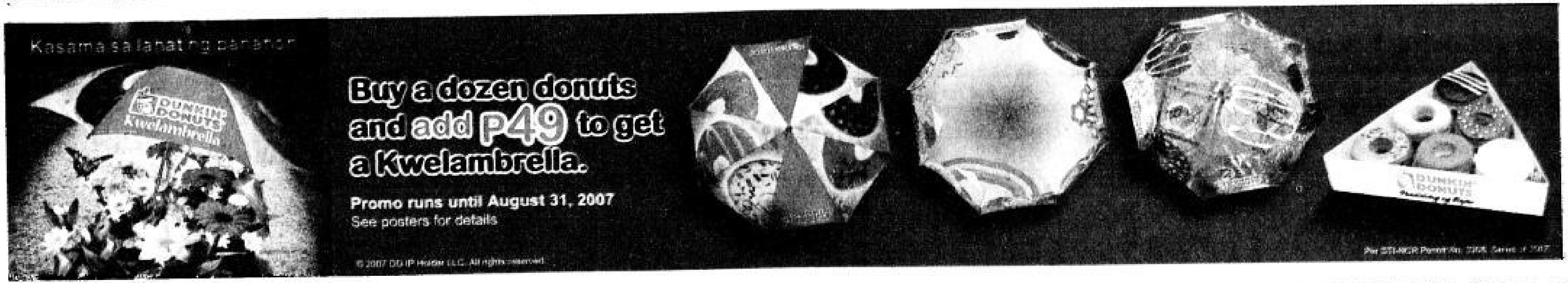
1 tbsp McCormick Mustard Seed
2 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp fennel seed
1 c coarsely chopped onion
8 medium bone-in chicken thighs, trimmed
½ c dry white wine
1 tsp coarse sea salt
1 tbsp parsley flakes
½ tsp tellicherry black peppercorns, crushed
1 can (14½ oz) diced tomatoes, undrained

- Heat a large skillet on medium high heat. Add mustard and fennel seeds; cook and stir about 2 minutes or until fragrant. Immediately pour out of hot pan to avoid over-toasting. Finely crush seeds using a small food processor, a clean coffee grinder, a rolling pin or a mortar and pestle. Pour into small bowl; set aside.
- Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper. Heat oil in same skillet on medium-high heat. Cook chicken in batches, 5 minutes per side or until golden brown. Remove chicken from skillet; keep warm.
- Remove all but 1 teaspoon drippings from pan. Add onion; cook and stir about 5 minutes or until softened. Add wine, parsley, tomatoes, crushed seeds and chicken; stir until blended. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low; cover. Simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove cover and simmer for an additional 10-15 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. Serve over rice or pasta, if desired.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment


Kasama sa lahat ng panahon
Buy a dozen donuts and add P49 to get a Kwelambrella.
Promo runs until August 31, 2007
See posters for details

'KUBRADOR' WINS 10TH AWARD Director Jeffrey Jeturian and his lead actor, Gina Pareño, are shown during the making of "Kubrador (The Bet Collector)." The movie won the critics' prize from the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (Netpac) at the recently concluded Brisbane International Film Festival in Australia. It is the 10th award for "Kubrador," produced by MLR Films.

Gabriela: Ruffa's decision is typical

By Marinel R. Cruz

MILITANT WOMEN'S GROUP Gabriela, who lauded Ruffa Gutierrez three months ago for publicly admitting she was a victim of domestic violence, yesterday said the actress' decision to reconcile with her Turkish husband Yilmaz Bektas was typical of battered women.

Cynthia Felicia, Gabriela media liaison officer, said women like Gutierrez often went back to abusive husbands because "they believe the men would eventually change."

RUFFA'S/ E2

Dinner with Quentin

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

MI AMIGO MUY SIMPATICO CESAR MONtano invited me to his Italian bistro, Bellisimo (Tomas Morato), for dinner with Quentin Tarantino last Tuesday.

Also present were CineManila's Tikoy Aguiluz, Soc Jose, Cecille Guidote Alvarez, Tiffany Limos, Katya Santos, Quark Henares and his girlfriend Essa. I brought along my cousin Marti, daughter Bianchi, sis Clara and their friend Mario who are all *taranta* over Tarantino.

Tikoy said it wasn't true that Quentin had refused to follow his CineManila sked. *Au contraire*, the avant-garde director was very cooperative, Tikoy said, though he had to cancel a Boracay workshop due to back pains.

Quentin was engaging and charming all evening, regaling us with stories. He was lavish with praise for Direk Quark Henares' "Keka" and Katya Santos' acting in the film.

Cesar and Quentin bonded while watching trailers of Buboy's films. Quentin was particularly impressed with "Ligalig." The two are looking forward to doing a project together.

"I'll definitely be back in Manila soon," Quentin promised. "It would be an honor to work with Cesar." Buboy was in awe, saying, "*Walang may utak katulad ni* Quentin *sa* Hollywood. *Nakakatuwa kasi napaka*-humble *niya*."

Before Quentin left, he scrawled on the table: "To Cesar, Thanks for such a wonderful meal and good time. You're as great a host as you are an actor. With love, Quentin."

When I asked for his autograph, he playfully sang a few lines from "Hello Dolly." I thank Buboy for that once-in-a-lifetime treat.

DINNER/ E4

STREETDANCE. A member of the Letran team executes one of the top hit moves in last year's 2nd Sketchers Streetdance Battle. His team won second place in the high school division, next to Xavier School. UP Diliman is undefeated in the college level. This year's competition is on. Call 893-6075.

up next at SM SOUTHMALL LAS PIÑAS
Event Center, UGF, Centermall
PRE-SALE EVENT
TONI GONZAGA
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3 DAY SALE AUG 31 • SEPT 1 • 2

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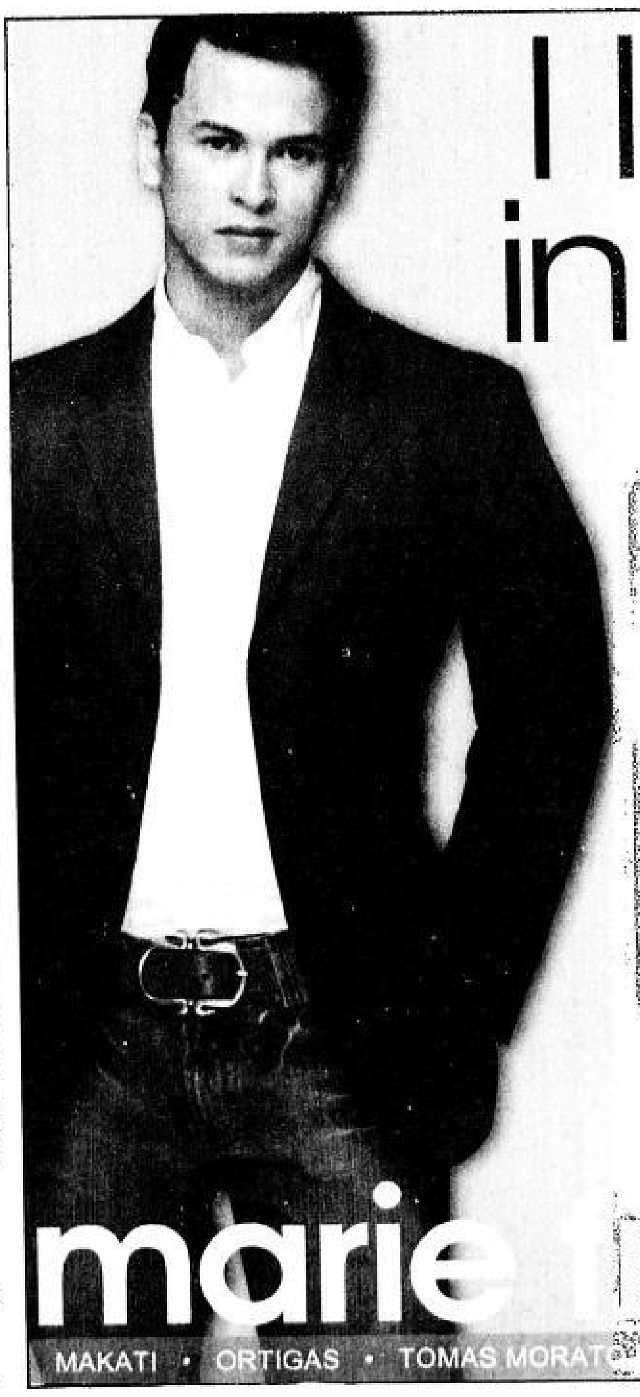
THE BIGGEST U.S. OPENING ON RECORD FOR A MUSICAL
John Travolta Michelle Pfeiffer Amanda Bynes Zac Efron James Marsden and Queen Latifah
HAIRSPRAY
Brittany Snow Christopher Walken Elijah Kelley Allison Janney introducing Nikki Blonsky



I lost 20 lbs. in 3 months!
- Martin Jickain
Businessman and Model

Martin at 185 lbs.

Former gym buff and model Martin Jickain never thought he would go from a sculpted, athletic bod to a flabby 185 lbs.! His shift from bachelor to family man meant new priorities, so work and family time replaced gym time. Then Martin tried the Marie France FOR MEN treatments, which were convenient for him. "I'd just lie down, get the treatments, and still have energy to do more things after," says Martin. "And it works! I went from 185 to 164 lbs. in just 3 months! It sounds unbelievable, but it's true. People who saw me after say *ang laki ng pinayat ko*. Thanks to Marie France, losing the weight is possible - even for busy men like me!"

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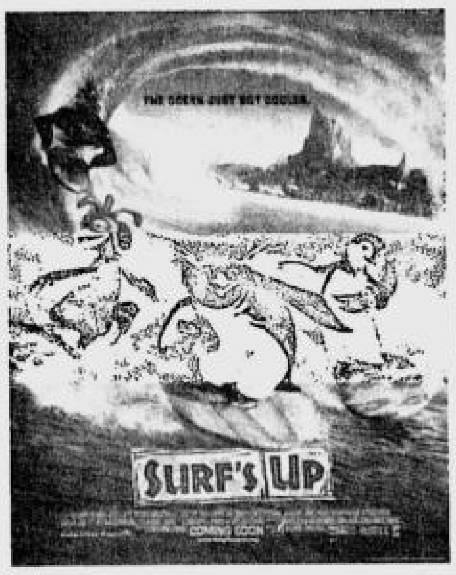
GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine : 100 632-9116

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY • THX
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
7 RISE
8 indieSine: INDIO NACIONAL
9 SURF'S UP
10 SIGNOS


THE OCEAN JUST GOT COOLER.
SURF'S UP
COMING SOON

SURF'S UP ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 18 (3:00PM) – "SURF'S UP" Mall Show
*Dance Number
*Meet & Greet / Photo Op with Cody
*Surfing Clinic by Stonemoney
*Games and Raffle
Robinsons Metro East Mall Activity Area

AUGUST 19 (3:00 – 6:00PM) – "Surf's Up" Meet & Greet Cody
Robinsons Pioneer Cinema Lobby

AUGUST 26 (11:00AM) – "SURF'S UP" Mall Show
*Dance Number
*Meet & Greet / Photo Op with Cody
*Surfing Clinic by Stonemoney
*Games and Raffle
Robinsons Bacolod Mall Activity Area

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2 SIGNOS
3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 RUSH HOUR 3
7 SURF'S UP / RISE

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: [illegible] 682-8199 • 682-8198

1 HAIRSPRAY
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 RISE
7 SURF'S UP
8 SIGNOS

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 936-3231 / 936-3229-30

1 A LOVE STORY
2 SIGNOS
3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 SURF'S UPRISE
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 RUSH HOUR

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-5378

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 HAIRSPRAY
4 A LOVE STORY

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

LIPA

Ticket Price: P.90 (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THREE
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 LICENSE to WED

DASMARINAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 A LOVE STORY
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P 90 / P95 (045) 892-2348

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

TARLAC

1 A LOVE STORY
2 SURF'S UP
3 BORDERTOWN

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (048) 878-1927

1 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
5 THREE
6 SURF'S UP

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 SURF'S UP
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 RESERVE

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070

1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 SURF'S UP
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 BLIND DATING

watch out for
the last SCARE
this AUGUST
Don't Look Back

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T-REX 2:30PM 7:00PM
ANT BULLY 12:30PM

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 SIGNOS
4 BLADES OF GLORY
5 HAIRSPRAY
6 XENOA

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A LOVE STORY
CENTERSTAGE
EVAN ALMIGHTY
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CINEMA 1
EVAN ALMIGHTY
CINEMA 2
BOURNE ULTIMATUM
633-8976
For ticket reservation, dial 6338976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 HAIRSPRAY
4 A LOVE STORY
5 A LOVE STORY
6 RUSH HOUR 3
7 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8 SIGNOS
9 RISE
10 XENOA
11 OUIJA
12 SURF'S UP

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 A LOVE STORY
5 SIGNOS
6 HAIRSPRAY
7 RATATOUILLE
8 OUIJA
9 RISE
10 A LOVE STORY
11 BLADES OF GLORY
12 XENOA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 SIGNOS
2 SURF'S UP
3 BLADES OF GLORY
4 OUIJA
5 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 HAIRSPARY
7 EVAN ALMIGHTY
8 A LOVE STORY
9 RUSH HOUR 3
10 RISE
11 RATATOUILLE
12 XENOA

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 HAIRSPRAY
5 A LOVE STORY
6 RISE
7 BLADES OF GLORY
8 XENOA
9 SIGNOS
10 SURF'S UP

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 XENOA
5 HAIRSPRAY
6 A LOVE STORY

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 A LOVE STORY
3 SIGNOS
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 HAIRSPRAY
7 SURF'S UP
8 OUIJA
9 XENOA

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 RISE
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3
5 HAIRSPRAY
6 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
7 XENOA
8 BLADES OF GLORY
9 A LOVE STORY
10 OUIJA
11 THREE
12 SIGNOS

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4322201-04

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 A LOVE STORY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

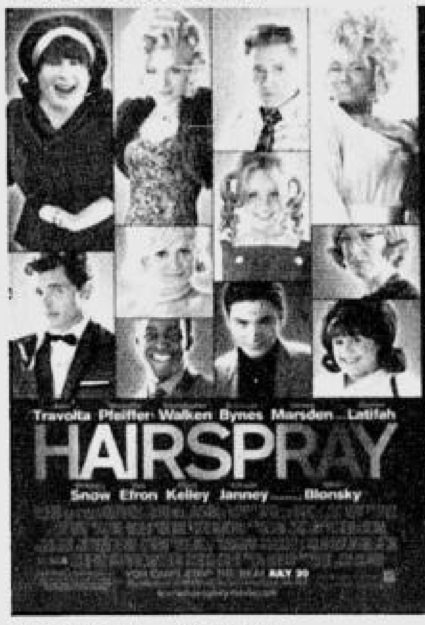
1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 A LOVE STORY
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

movietime

Fresh New Movie


Travolta Pfeiffer Walken Bynes Marsden Latifah
HAIRSPRAY
Snow Efron Kelley Janney Blonsky
JULY 20

Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and bigger heart, loves dancing and dreams of appearing in "The Corny Collins Show", Baltimore's hippest dance party on TV.

Tracy's determination flourished, despite her plus-size figure, much to the chagrin of the show's reigning princess, Amber Von Tussle, and her scheming mother, Velma, who runs the TV station. What makes Amber hate her more is that her sweetheart, Link Larkin, seems to be smitten with Tracy's charm as well.

Now, the dance party turns into a fight between Tracy and Amber, as they compete for the much-coveted "Miss Teenage Hairspray" crown.

NOW SHOWING

Distributed by PIONEER FILMS

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 A LOVE STORY
4 SIGNOS
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 RISE
7 OUIJA
8 A LOVE STORY

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 SURF'S UP
5 A LOVE STORY
6 XENOA

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 LICENSE TO WED

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)6037681-85

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 OUIJA
5 XENOA
6 A LOVE STORY

SM CIY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 LICENSE TO WED
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 A LOVE STORY
4 SURF'S UP

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 A LOVE STORY
2 LICENSE TO WED
3 BLADES OF GLORY
4 SURF'S UP

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 LICENSE TO WED
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 A LOVE STORY
4 BOURNE ULTIMATUM

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 A LOVE STORY

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 LICENSE TO WED
3 A LOVE STORY
4 XENOA
5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
6 RUSH HOUR 3

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 THE LAST MIMZY
3 A LOVE STORY
4 LICENSE TO WED

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 RISE
2 RESERVED
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 A LOVE STORY
5 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 RESERVED
8 BLIND DATING

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 RUSH HOUR 3
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 LICENSE TOP WED
5 XENOA
6 THREE
7 A LOVE STORY
8 PLANET TERROR

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 A LOVE STORY
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 BORDERTOWN

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

RYAN SEACREST

Seacrest to host Emmys

LOS ANGELES—Ryan Seacrest of "American Idol" is hosting next month's Emmy television awards ceremony.

Seacrest's appeal is expected to be a "magnet" for viewers, especially younger ones, to the show on Fox, Dick Askin, chair and chief executive officer of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, said Monday.

The 59th Primetime Emmy Awards airs Sept. 16.

Last year's Emmys, hosted on NBC by Conan O'Brien, drew about 16.1 million viewers, the second least-watched Emmy telecast since 1991. It aired unusually early, in August, to make way for NBC's National Football League telecast.

The awards ceremony rotates among the four major broadcast networks.

AP

Ruffa's decision typical

From page E1

But statistics were not encouraging, Felicia noted. "Few abusive husbands reform."

Among Filipino males who batter their wives, said Felicia, it had "everything to do with the way they are raised. They are taught to have control over women."

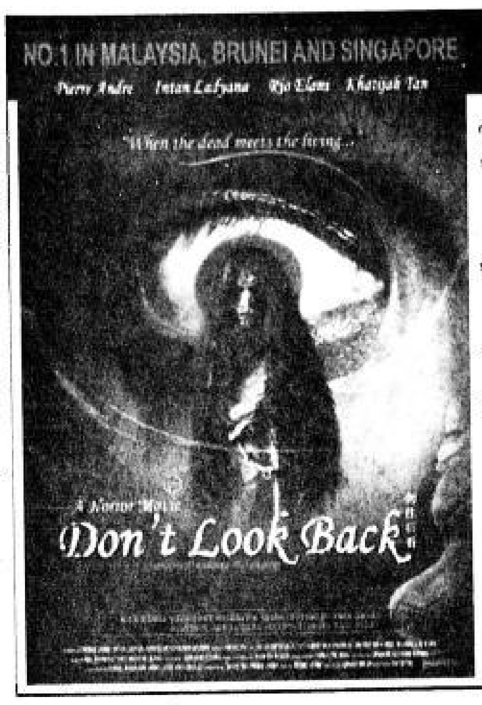
She said this was more pronounced in some other cultures.

In the show biz talk program "The Buzz" on Sunday, Gutierrez said she and Bektas were patching up their differences for the sake of their children.

Felicia said Gabriela respected that decision. "The victim's decision prevails."

It was the actress who hooked up with Gabriela and asked to meet with other abused women, said Felicia.

Should Gutierrez need Gabriela's help again, Felicia said, "She will be most welcome."


NO.1 IN MALAYSIA, BRUNEI AND SINGAPORE
Pierre Andre Intan Ladyana Rio Elani Khatijah Tan
"When the dead meets the living...
A Horror Movie
Don't Look Back

Don't Look Back

This horrifying and mysterious story is about a young man named Darma (Pierre Andre) who is trying to figure out the cause of his fiance named Rose's (Intan Ladyana) death. Rose was found dead without any reason. Darma together with Rose's twin sister named Seri (also played by Intan Ladyana) tried to find the mystery behind Rose's death.

They began their investigation by going to Rose's house where Darma found a bottle which he brought home. Darma and Seri suspected something weird happened behind Rose's death. Their suspicion became stronger as they found some evidences including Rose's digital camera.

Since then Darma lived a disturbing life. A diverse of weird and horrifying events haunted him. At Kampung, as Darma was about to find the cause of Rose's death, he and Seri were shocked by one thing that was really hard to accept. What is that thing and could Darma afford to find a way out of this thing that haunts him everyday? Everything will be answered by watching this film. To all of you there, whatever happen, don't you dare LOOK BACK because when dead men meet life, anything can happen!

showing at all

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
this August 29

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net

Gateway Ali MALL FarmersPlaza
gatewaymall.com.ph

Gateway CINEPLEX 10

WORLD-CLASS, STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE AT POPULAR PRICES
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

EVAN ALMIGHTY 2:15 / 2:35 / 4:55 / 7:15 / 9:50	**THE WAITRESS** 12:50 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 7:35 / 9:50	**SURFS UP** 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00
SIGNOS 11:35 / 2:05 / 4:35 / 7:05 / 10:00	**HAIRSPRAY** 1:00 / 3:50 / 6:40 / 9:30	**RUSH HOUR 3** 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50

Platinum Cinema

DOLBY DIGITAL-EX		
BOURNE ULTIMATUM 12:10 / 2:35 / 5:00 / 7:25 / 9:50	**A LOVE STORY** 12:00 / 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:30 / 10:00	**EVAN ALMIGHTY** 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

CINEMANILA EXTENDED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND!

AUGUST 23 · CINEMA 6 · SCREENING SCHEDULE

12:00PM	Renaissance
2:30PM	The Unseeable
5:00PM	Hula Girls
7:00PM	Getting Home
9:00PM	Irina Palm

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

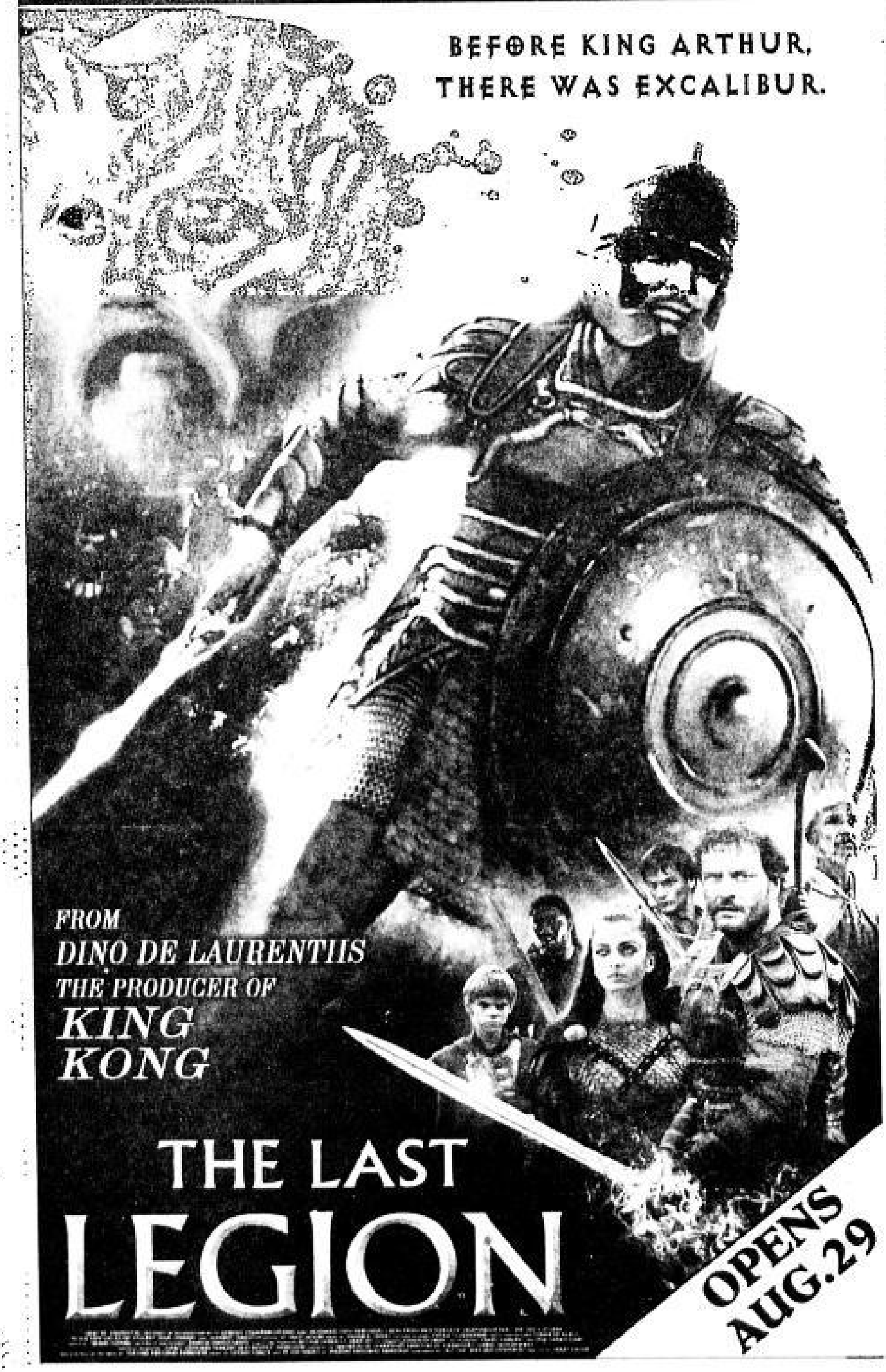
Ali MALL 5

1	HAIRSPRAY	12:15 / 3:05 / 5:55 / 8:45
2	EVAN ALMIGHTY	1:05 / 3:25 / 5:45 / 8:05
3	BOURNE ULTIMATUM	1:20 / 3:45 / 6:10 / 8:35
4	SIGNOS	12:15 R3 / 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15
5	A LOVE STORY	1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

WITNESS THE SPECTACULAR FINAL BATTLE UNLIKE ANY YOU HAVE EVER SEEN BEFORE.

IN THE TRADITION OF '300' COMES ANOTHER HISTORICAL EPIC THAT DEPICTS THE COURAGE OF A FEW LEGIONNAIRES WHO FOUGHT AGAINST AN ARMY 50 TIMES BIGGER AND WON.


BEFORE KING ARTHUR, THERE WAS EXCALIBUR.
FROM DINO DE LAURENTIIS
THE PRODUCER OF KING KONG
THE LAST LEGION
OPENS AUG.29

SHANG CINEPLEX

① **HAIRSPRAY**
MTRCB GP
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

② **BOURNE ULTIMATUM**
MTRCB PG-13
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

③ **A LOVE STORY**
MTRCB PG-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

④ **EVAN ALMIGHTY**
MTRCB GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE SURF'S UP (GP) / RUSH HOUR 3 (PG-13)

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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Shangri-La Plaza

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A Horror Movie
Don't Look Back

The newest blockbuster hit movie that became number one in BRUNEI, SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA now to premier in PHILIPPINE Cinemas on August 29, 2007 through MEGAVISION FILMS

This horrifying and mysterious story is about a young man named Dharma (Pierre Andre) who attempts to know the cause of death of Rose, his fiancee (Intan Ladyana), who was found dead in mysterious circumstances. Darma must now work with Rose's twin sister Seri to solve the mystery behind the death.

They begin their investigation with a visit to Rose's house, where Darma finds a bottle, and Rose's digital camera, which only deepens the mystery.

Bringing these unusual evidences home, Dharma finds himself facing horrifying events that flings his life into chaos.

Given a vacation by his boss (Jalaludin Hassan) at work, Dharma seeks the help of his aunt Mak Lang (Khatijah Tan), who lives with her daughter Lin (Rio Elani).

At Kampung, Dharma and Seri discover the shocking truth that whatever happens, they should never dare LOOK BACK, because when life meets death, anything can happen!

ADVT

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

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ONE KICKS HARD... THE OTHER TALKS FAST
PERFECT COMBINATION

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THE DIRECTOR OF "X-MEN 3: THE LAST STAND"
3RD WEEK
JACKIE CHAN
CHRIS TUCKER
RUSH HOUR 3

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
1 (DOLBY) HAIRSPRAY
2 (DOLBY) BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 (DOLBY) A LOVE STORY
4 (DOLBY) EVAN ALMIGHTY
PREMIERE
SURF'S UP
(DOLBY) RUSH HOUR - 3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 A LOVE STORY
4 HAIRSPRAY

starmall
EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160
3 A LOVE STORY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SIGNOS
5 RESERVED

metropolis star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433094
1 A LOVE STORY
2 RUSH HOUR-3
3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
4 SIGNOS

THEATRES
1 RUSH HOUR - 3
2 SURF'S UP
3 A LOVE STORY

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
A LOVE STORY
EVAN ALMIGHTY
RESERVED
RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RUSH HOUR - 3
3 A LOVE STORY
4
5 SURF'S UP
6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
8 SIGNOS
9 A LOVE STORY
10 HAIRSPRAY

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Nino, Marikina City tel. 9341937
1 (DOLBY) A LOVE STORY
2 (DOLBY) HAIRSPRAY
3 (DOLBY) EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 (DOLBY) SIGNOS

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334220
1 (DOLBY) BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 A LOVE STORY
5 RUSH HOUR - 3

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 A LOVE STORY
2 SIGNOS
3 RUSH HOUR - 3
4 PLEASE CALL

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 A LOVE STORY
2 HAIRSPRAY
3 SIGNOS

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 RUSH HOUR - 3
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 A LOVE STORY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 A LOVE STORY
2 RATATOUILLE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) A LOVE STORY
2 (DOLBY) BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 (DOLBY) EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 (DOLBY) HAIRSPRAY

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY) EVAN ALMIGHTY
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4115146
1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY) THE SIMPSONS MOVIE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 OUIJA
2 A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY) PREMONITION
4 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
2 A LOVE STORY
3 (DOLBY) EVAN ALMIGHTY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 A LOVE STORY
2 THE SIMPSONS MOVIE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 SINKING JAPAN
2 OUIJA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SIGNOS
2 RUSH HOUR - 3
3 PLEASE CALL
4 PLEASE CALL

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 A LOVE STORY
2 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
3 CASA
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
5 LICENSE TO WED

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LICENSE TO WED
2 A LOVE STORY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 RUSH HOUR - 3

Benna Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2 PLEASE CALL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Dinner with Quentin

From page E1

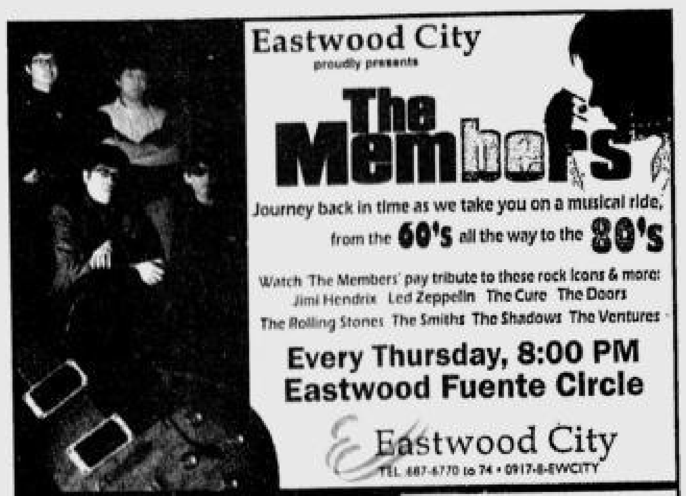
He's sure he'll be back in Manila soon

Here are some "Quentinisms" I soaked in over dinner:

- "Like seeds, my ideas about exploring Manila as a future location for my movies keep growing. It's a cool city."
- "Of all my movies, 'Reservoir Dogs' is my favorite because it changed my life."
- "My all-time favorite is 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.'"
- "In Russia, I am treated like a philosopher. In some parts of the world there are bars named after my movies."
- "Some people don't like my work ... because they don't get it."

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

AFTER-DINNER bonding (from left): Cesar Montano, Quentin Tarantino and the columnist.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EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

1	A LOVE STORY	12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:10	PG-13
2	BOURNE ULTIMATUM	12:05, 2:40, 5:25, 8:10, 11:05	PG-13
3	HAIRSPRAY	12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00	G
4	EVAN ALMIGHTY	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	PG-13

To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
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Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
1	SURFS UP	11:35, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 7:55, 10:00	GP
2	RUSH HOUR 3	12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00	PG-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Movie	Times	Rating
3	HAIRSPRAY	11:10, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30	GP
4	BOURNE ULTIMATUM	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00	PG-13
5	EVAN ALMIGHTY	10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

Venue	Date	Event	Time
MUSIC MUSEUM	August 24 & 25, 2007	Ogie Alcasid & Regine Velasquez	8:00 PM
	September 15, 2007	Rico J. w/ Buffa Mae	8:00 PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	Aug. 24, 31, Sept. 7, 21, 28, 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
	Aug. 30, Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

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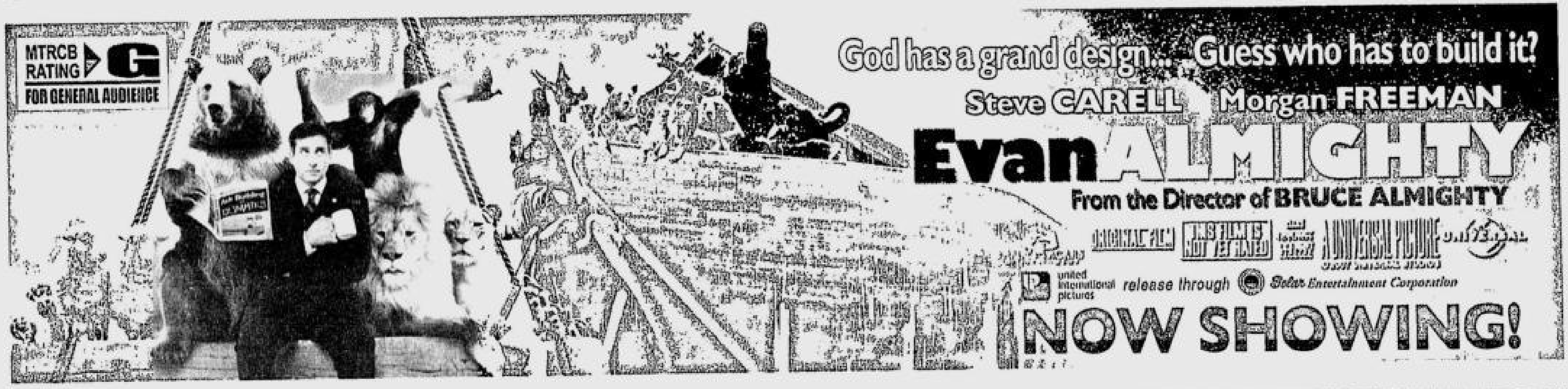
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

RUSH HOUR 3 PG13 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20	EVAN ALMIGHTY G 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20	BOURNE ULTIMATUM PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30
A LOVE STORY PG13 12:10,2:40,5:10, 7:40,10:10	SURF'S UP G 1:00,3:00,5:00, 7:00,9:00	HAIRSPRAY PG13 12:30,3;00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE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AT THE CINEMAS
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GLORIETTA 1	1 SIGNOS	2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	3 RUSH HOUR 3	4 A LOVE STORY
GLORIETTA 4	1 A LOVE STORY	2 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	3 THX HAIRSPRAY GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 RISE	5 SURF'S UP	6 EVAN ALMIGHTY	7 RUSH HOUR 3
GREENBELT 1	1 A LOVE STORY	2 EVAN ALMIGHTY		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX HAIRSPRAY GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX EVAN ALMIGHTY GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 SURF'S UP GUARANTEED SEATS	4 RUSH HOUR 3 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX EVAN ALMIGHTY	2 HAIRSPRAY		
	3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	4 SURF'S UP	5 RUSH HOUR 3	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 EVAN ALMIGHTY	2 LICENSE TO WED	3 A LOVE STORY	4 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM
MARKET! MARKET!	1 A LOVE STORY	2 HAIRSPRAY		
	3 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	4 EVAN ALMIGHTY	5 RUSH HOUR 3	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 A LOVE STORY	2 SURF'S UP	3 THE LOOKOUT GUARANTEED SEATS	4 HAIRSPRAY GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 RUSH HOUR 3	6 THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM	7 THX EVAN ALMIGHTY GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS
Ayala Malls
CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2702; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	Ansons Exhibit August 20 to September 2, 2007 at the Activity Center
GREENBELT	Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peek presents Collection of Avatar August 20 to September 10, 2007 at the Greenbelt 3 Lobby
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Alabang Town Center Grand Grocery Shopping Spree Promo July 1 to August 31, 2007; Mallwide
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Symposium for soon-to-be mothers August 25, 2007 at the Activity Center
MARKET! MARKET!	Laguna Expo August 20 to 26, 2007 at the Activity Center
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Elements Photoconstructed Realities August 16 to 29, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	NU 107: Pocket Concert 07 August 23, 2007 at the Activity Center Luxury Car Exhibits August 24 to 30, 2007 at the Activity Center

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AT GLORIETTA 4
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Shawn Edwards, FOX TV
MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

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Concierge Hotline 752 7272
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glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma